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I ENCOUNTER THE  
ANGEL IN YOUR  
ECSTASY

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KLONARIS / THOMADAKI

Exhibition:

from 27 September to 14 December 2024

Opening: Thursday, 26 September, from 6 pm to 9 pm

Press opening: Thursday, 26 September, from 10 am to 12 pm

An installation of The Angel Cycle

created by Katerina Thomadaki, dedicated to Maria Klonaris

Curators:

Maud Jacquin and Émilie Renard

PRESS KIT

Wednesday to Friday, from 11am to 7pm

Saturday, from 2pm to 7pm · Free entrance

9 esplanade Pierre Vidal-Naquet 75013 Paris

M14 & RER C: Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand

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BÉTONSALON  
CENTRE FOR ART  
& RESEARCH

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Since the 1970s, artists and filmmakers Maria Klonaris and Katerina Thomadaki have never ceased to break new paths and express their dissident positions, in hybrid, protean artworks abolishing the conventional boundaries between artistic media, cultures, and fields of knowledge. From the beginning, the artists have laid claim to a “double female authorship” proposing - in their *Cinéma corporel* - a “radical femininity” capable of “shattering all that weighs on it and constrains it”, beginning with the binary opposition of male and female. A concept further developed in their major cycles of works inspired by other “dissident bodies”: the Hermaphrodite (1982–90); the intersexual “Angel” (1985–2024); the conjoined twins (1995–2000). By revealing the power of these figures to transgress symbolic - as well as biological and anatomical - norms, Klonaris and Thomadaki have very early on contested the ideology of “nature” as a static order, thus anticipating current debates and theories concerning gender and the materiality of bodies.

Today, at Bétonsalon, a decade after the passing of Maria Klonaris, Katerina Thomadaki revisits and extends *The Angel Cycle*, which the two artists launched in 1985 and developed together over three decades. This vast ensemble of artworks, created in a variety of media — photography, video, sound, text, performance, installation - begins with a medical photograph: an intersexual person associated by the artists with the angel - a herald announcing the collapse of gender. In their artworks, the intersexual body is not reduced to an object of observation, pathologized by the medical gaze. On the contrary, the artists assert its multifarious and elusive character as it becomes the subject of infinite metamorphoses through multiple hybridisations with astronomical photographs. Bétonsalon’s exhibition space is specifically transformed to welcome this “Angel”, who meets and dialogs with emblematic self-portraits of the two artists. Via their interventions on this “matrix image”, Klonaris/Thomadaki give shape to the infinite possibilities which open up once we overcome the binary regime of sexual difference. But while the “Angel” thus acquires a cosmic dimension, the two artists also express the genuine suffering experienced by the person stigmatised for their difference. This constantly reformulated image creates and maintains a certain tension between disaster and freedom, implosion and explosion, violence and emancipation.

Borrowed from the soundtrack of their expanded cinema performance *Mystère II: Incendie de l’Ange* [Mystery II: The Angel Ablaze], the exhibition’s title insists on the intensity of the relationship between the two artists and between them and this “Angel” who has long fascinated them. The reference to ecstasy highlights the way in which the amorous experience may overflow, undoing the limits between the self and the other - as well as between male and female, human and non-human, the imaginary and the tangible. Ecstasy also evokes the altered state which Klonaris/Thomadaki’s artworks seek to elicit in the viewer; the abandonment of a day-time regime of perception, governed by functionality and rationality, in favour of a nocturnal plunge into a world both political and eminently poetic.

This exhibition is part of a long-term research project supported by Bétonsalon with Maud Jacquin on Klonaris/Thomadaki's œuvre, considered through the lens of performance and its relationship to gender and identity issues.

See:

[Klonaris/Thomadaki: "For I explode in images"](#)

↘ The project has received the support of Fondation des Artistes. The events programme was created in partnership with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the Centre Pompidou—Vidéo et après/Service Nouveaux Médias, Les Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin and AWARE Archives of Women Artists.

### Biography of the artists

Born in Cairo to Greek parents, Maria Klonaris grew up in Alexandria. In Athens and Paris, she acquired an interdisciplinary education: Graphic Arts and Scenography (Athens School of Fine Arts), English Literature (Athens University), Egyptology (École pratique des Hautes études), Film and Aesthetics (Université Paris I), and Computer Graphics (École des Arts décoratifs). She passed away in Paris in 2014. When she died, Maria Klonaris left a vast output of drawings she had kept secret, as well as unpublished collections of poetry.

Born in Athens where she grew up, Katerina Thomadaki pursued interdisciplinary studies and research in Athens and Paris: Literature and Philosophy (Athens University), Theatre Studies (Université Paris III), Aesthetics and Art Sciences (Université Paris I), and Computer Graphics (École des Arts décoratifs). She was formerly an associate professor at the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. As a teacher-researcher, she has participated in several research groups in the fine arts and film.

Filmmakers, artists, and theorists of Greek origins, living in Paris since 1975, Maria Klonaris and Katerina Thomadaki co-sign a multidisciplinary œuvre that is rooted in experimental theatre and cinema and brings together over a hundred creations structured in cycles – *La Tétralogie corporelle* [The Corporeal Tetralogy] (1975–1979), *Le Cycle de l'Unheimlich* [The Unheimlich Cycle] (1977–1982), *La Série Portraits* [The Portraits Series] (1979–1992), *Le Cycle des Hermaphrodites* [The Hermaphrodites Cycle] (1982–1990), *Le Rêve d'Electra* [Electra's Dream] (1983–1990), *Le Cycle de L'Ange* [The Angel Cycle] (1985–), *Les Jumeaux* [The Twins] (1995–2000) – as well as an extensive corpus of publications (manifestoes, essays, interviews).

The work of the two artists has gained international recognition (MoMA New York, Centre Pompidou, Tate Modern, National Gallery of Art Washington, Cinémathèque française, British Film Institute, Kunsthalle Wien, Benaki Museum and Onassis Foundation in Athens, Taipei Contemporary Art Museum, Joan Miró Foundation in Barcelona, etc).

Retrospectives of their films have been presented by the Musée National d'Art Moderne / Centre Pompidou in 1980, the Galerie J. & J. Donguy in 1985, Le Lux – Scène Nationale de Valence in 2010, the Jeu de Paume in 2016 and the MAXXI (Rome) in 2022.

Cultural activists, Maria Klonaris and Katerina Thomadaki edited in the nineties three editions of the *Rencontres Internationales Art cinéma/vidéo/ordinateur* and directed the publications *Technologies et imaginaires* (Dis/voir, 1990), *Mutations de l'image* (A.S.T.A.R.T.I., 1994), and *Pour une écologie des médias* (A.S.T.A.R.T.I., 1998).

Between 2004 and 2019, the CNC's Film Heritage Directorate, in collaboration with them, carried out exemplary restorations of their major films. Four feature films and one short film have thus been preserved.

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France inaugurated in 2012 a Klonaris/Thomadaki Collection, described in collaboration with the artists (François Mitterrand site, Archives and Manuscripts).

Digitised by the Institut national de l'audiovisuel, their Ateliers de Création Radiophonique [Workshops for Radiophonic Creation] (France Culture, 1983-1994) can be consulted at the InaTHEQUE de France (BnF, François Mitterrand site).

In 2020 and 2023, Re:Voir dedicated two special DVD editions to their work: *Le Cycle de l'Ange, Selected Works*, and *Double Labyrinthe & Selected Works*, which both included bilingual French-English booklets.

In 2024, historic works by Klonaris/Thomadaki have joined the Centre Pompidou's Nouveaux médias collections; the Patronage Committee of the Fondation des artistes has supported the Klonaris/Thomadaki exhibition at Bétonsalon; [the Prix d'Honneur AWARE for women artists](#) is awarded to both artists for the entirety of their joint career.

See:

[Klonaris/Thomadaki "The Angel Cycle" on the artists' website](#)

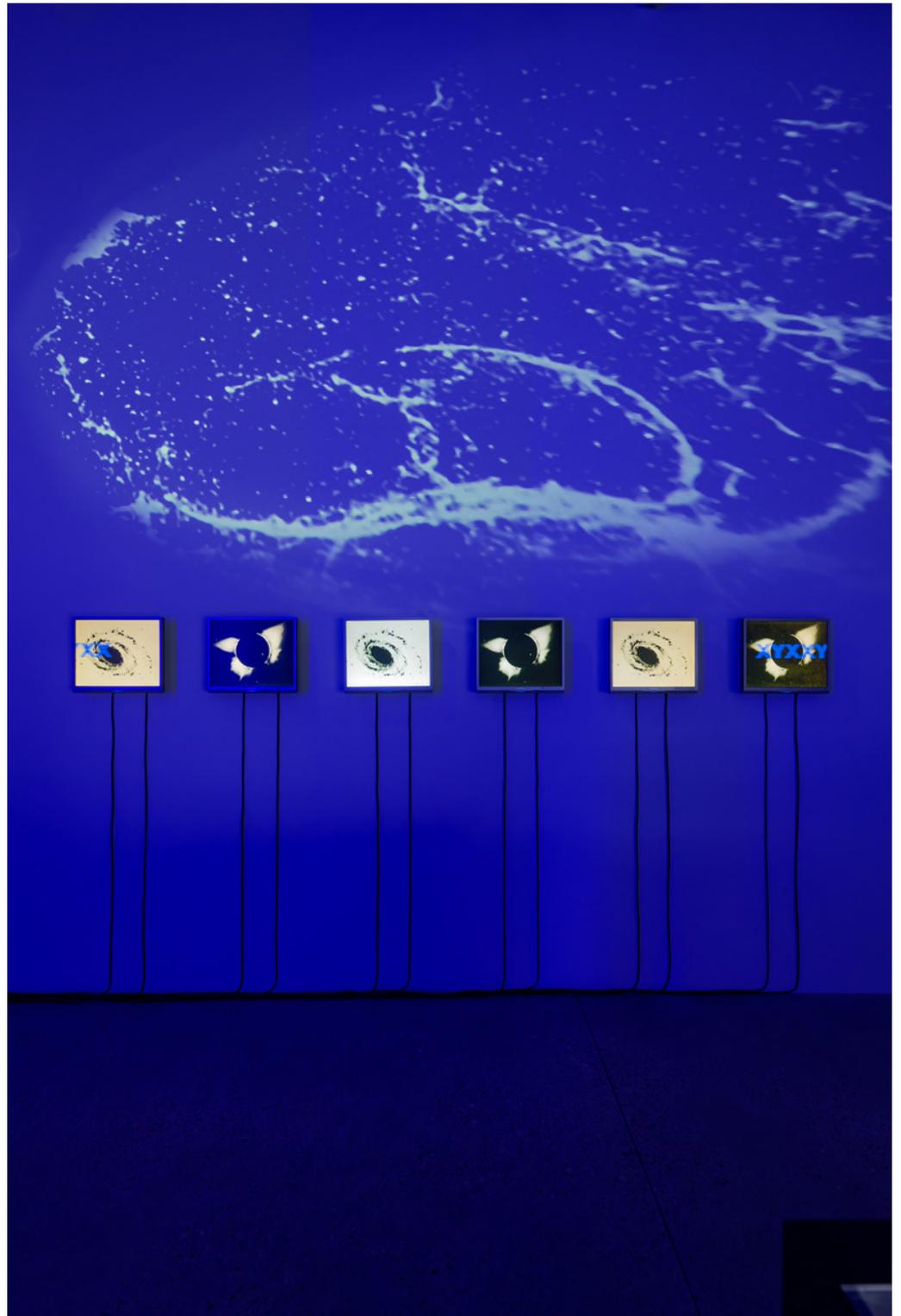




Exhibition view "Klonaris/Thomadaki, I encounter the Angel in your ecstasy",  
Bétonsalon - centre for art and research, Paris, 2024 © Klonaris/Thomadaki / ADAGP, Paris, 2024. Photo: Aurélien Mole.



Exhibition view "Klouaris/Thomadaki, I encounter the Angel in your ecstasy".  
View of *Ailes* [Wings], 2024, photographic sequences, Bétonsalon - centre for art and research, Paris, 2024  
© Klouaris/Thomadaki / ADAGP, Paris, 2024. Photo: Aurélien Mole.



Exhibition view "Klonaris/Thomadaki, I encounter the Angel in your ecstasy".

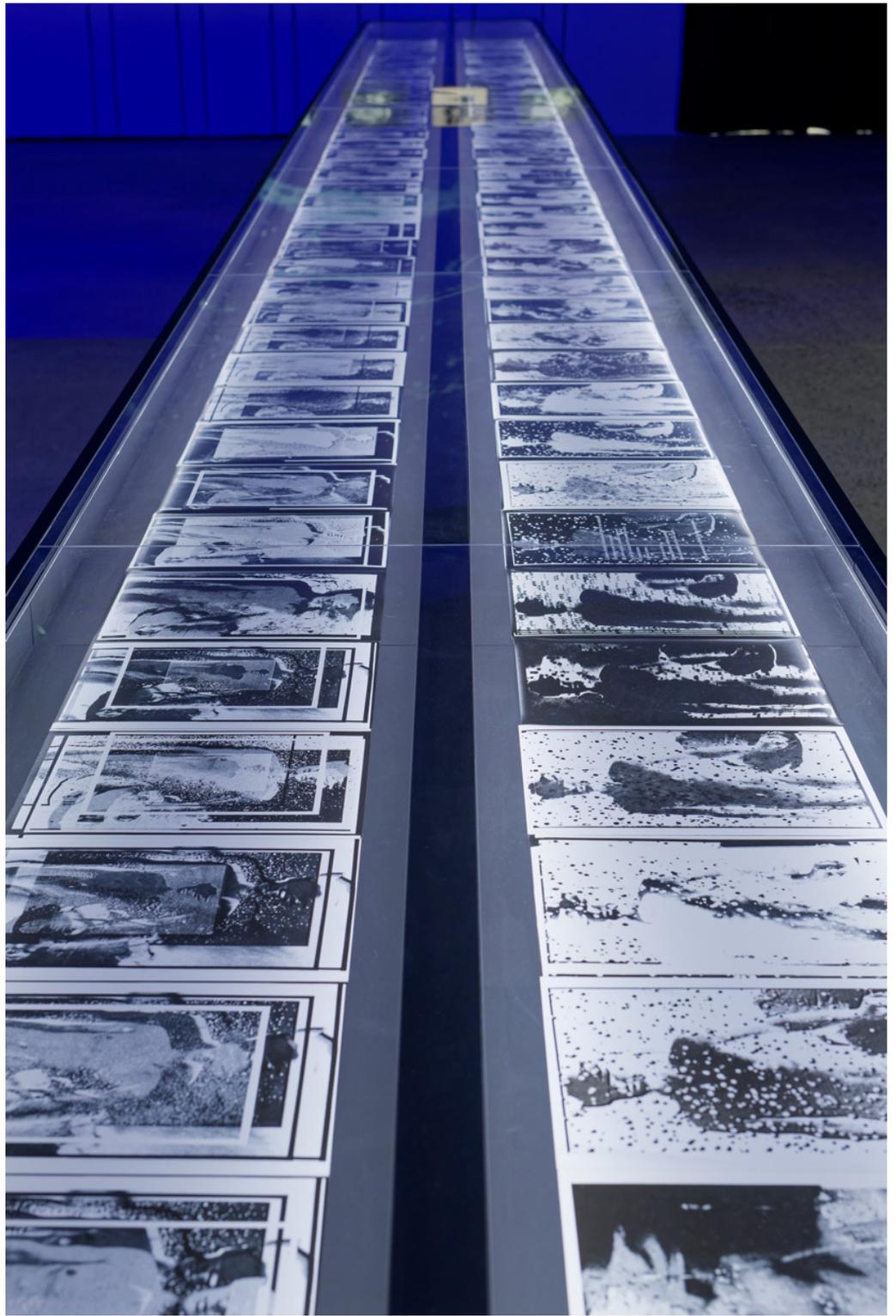
View of XYXX Collapse of Gender, 1994, analog video from The Angel Cycle,

Bétonsalon - centre for art and research, Paris, 2024 © Klonaris/Thomadaki / ADAGP, Paris, 2024. Photo: Aurélien Mole.



Exhibition view "Klonaris/Thomadaki, I encounter the Angel in your ecstasy".

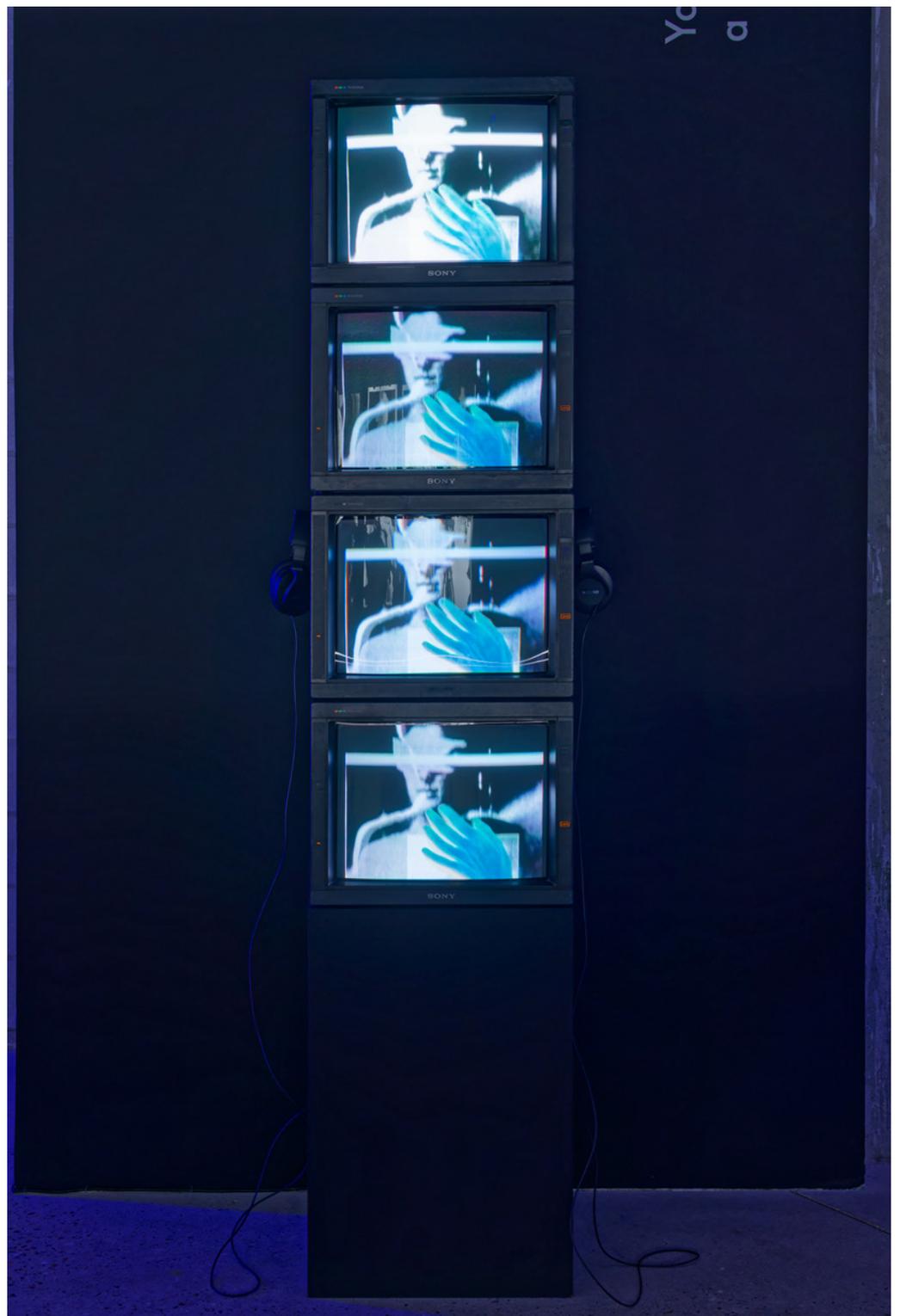
View of Angélophanies, 1987-1988, series of photographs,  
Bétonsalon - centre for art and research, Paris, 2024 © Klonaris/Thomadaki / ADAGP, Paris, 2024. Photo: Aurélien Mole.



Exhibition view "Klonaris/Thomadaki, I encounter the Angel in your ecstasy".

View of Angélophanies, 1987-1988, series of photographs,

Bétonsalon - centre for art and research, Paris, 2024 © Klonaris/Thomadaki / ADAGP, Paris, 2024. Photo: Aurélien Mole.



Exhibition view "Klonaris/Thomadaki, I encounter the Angel in your ecstasy".

View of Personal Statement, 1994, analog video from the Angel Cycle,

Bétonsalon - centre for art and research, Paris, 2024 © Klonaris/Thomadaki / ADAGP, Paris, 2024. Photo: Aurélien Mole.



Exhibition view "Klonaris/Thomadaki, I encounter the Angel in your ecstasy".

View of Manifeste [Manifesto], 2024, photographic sequences,

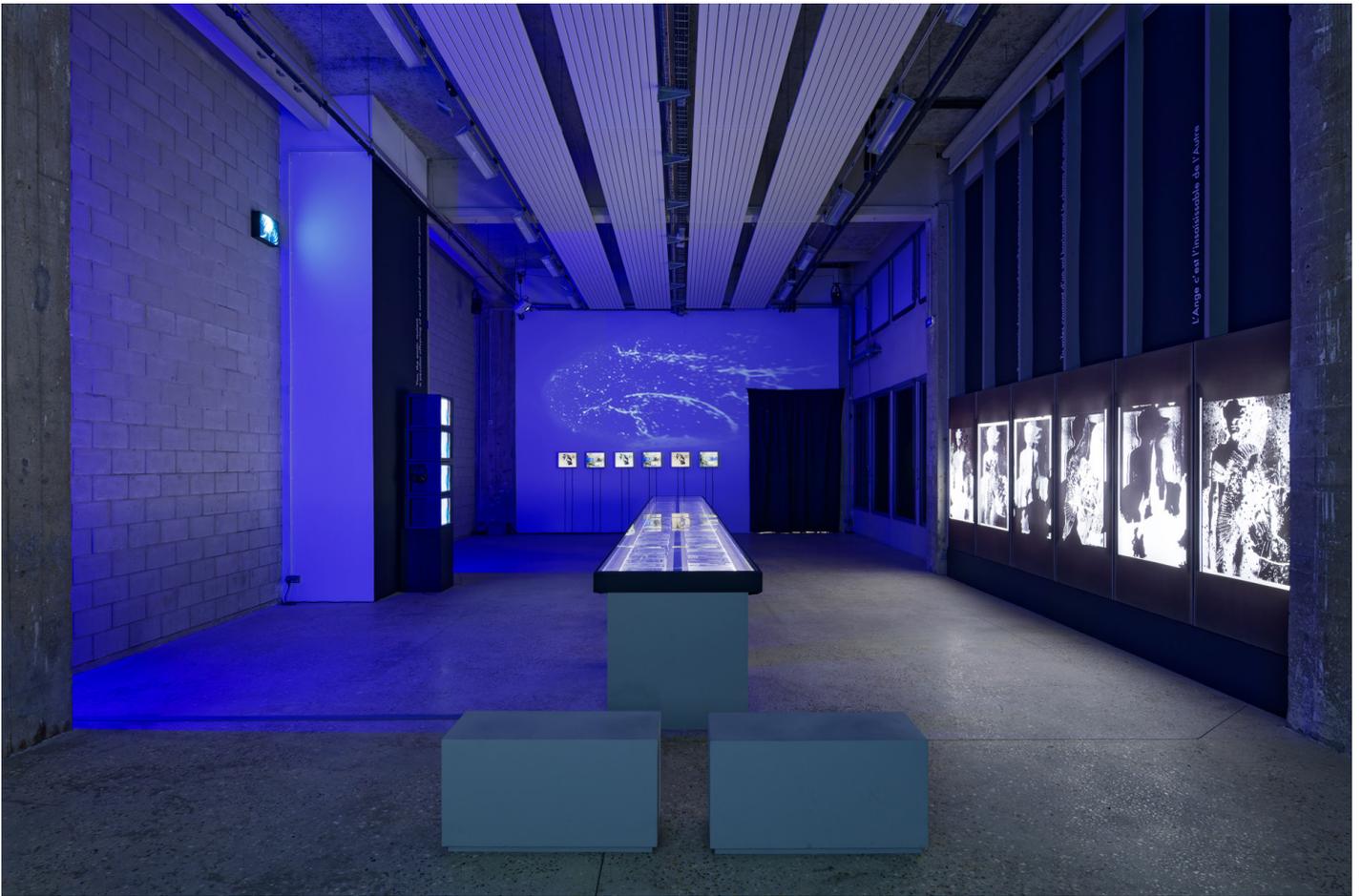
Bétonsalon - centre for art and research, Paris, 2024 © Klonaris/Thomadaki / ADAGP, Paris, 2024. Photo: Aurélien Mole.

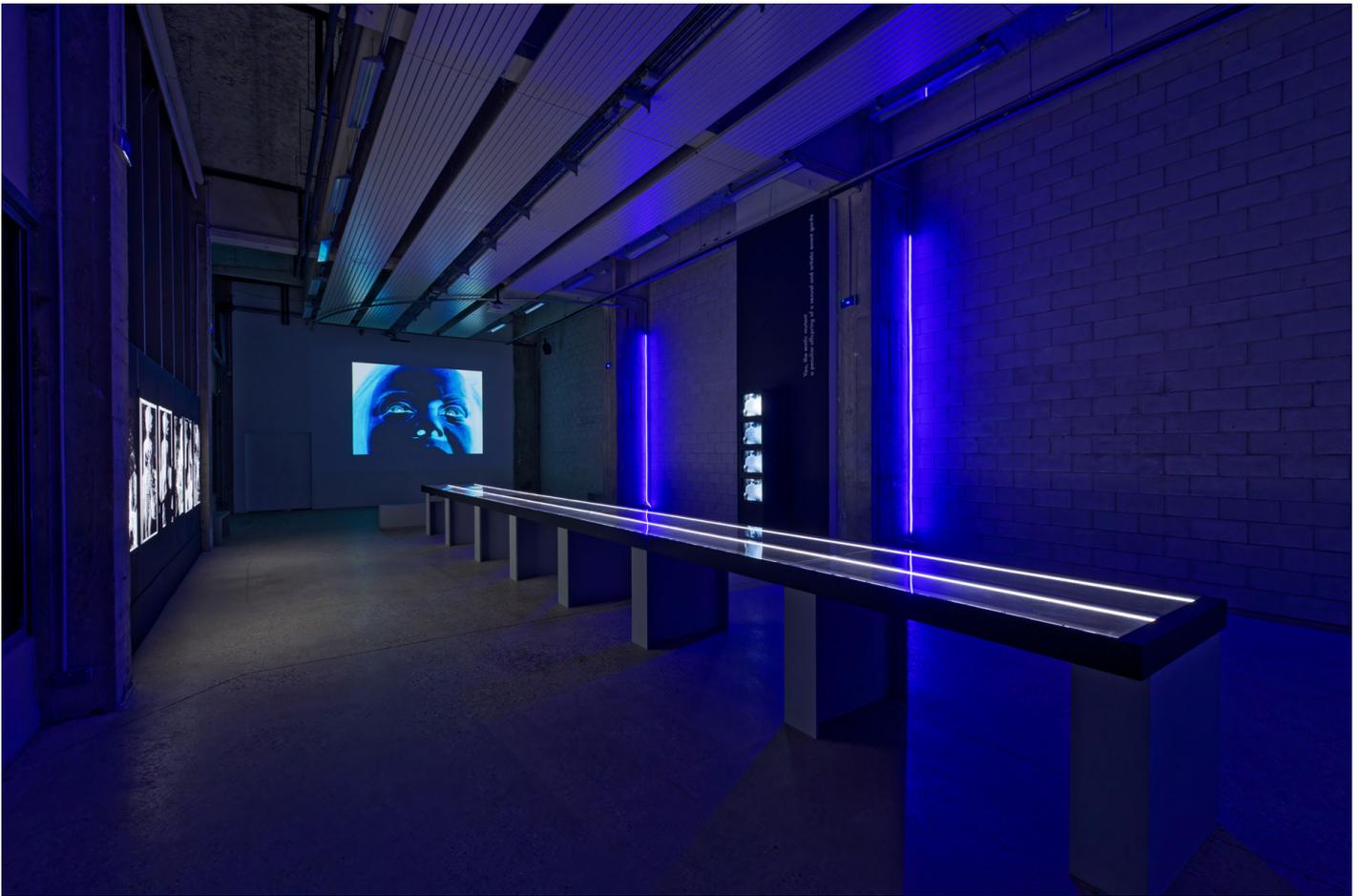


Exhibition view "Klonaris/Thomadaki, I encounter the Angel in your ecstasy".

View of Manifeste [Manifesto], 2024, photographic sequences,

Bétonsalon - centre for art and research, Paris, 2024 © Klonaris/Thomadaki / ADAGP, Paris, 2024. Photo: Aurélien Mole.





Full programme on [www.betonsalon.net](http://www.betonsalon.net)

## Events

16 September - 23 November  
BnF | François Mitterrand,  
Research library  
Exhibition, "Klonaris/Thomadaki:  
archives": Access restricted to hol-  
ders of a research library  
accreditation

Fridays, 8 November and  
6 December, from 3pm to  
4pm  
BnF | François Mitterrand,  
Research library  
Discovery workshops of *Klonaris/  
Thomadaki archives*. Reservation  
required: [publics@betonsalon.net](mailto:publics@betonsalon.net)

Friday, 22 November, at 6pm  
Rencontres internationales  
Paris/Berlin at Centre Wallonie-  
Bruxelles  
*The Angel Experience*: screening of  
*Requiem pour le XX<sup>e</sup> siècle* (1994),  
*Quasar* (2002-2003) and *Angel Scan*  
(2007), Talk with Katerina  
Thomadaki and Émilie Renard

Saturday, 23 November,  
at 3pm  
Exhibition tour with the team  
and Maud Jacquin  
at 5 pm  
*Incendie de l'Ange* [Angel's Fire]:  
conference by Mathilde Collonges  
and Maud Jacquin, Q&A with  
Katerina Thomadaki and signature  
of recent publications

Sunday, 24 November,  
at 2:30pm  
Rencontres internationales  
Paris/Berlin at Jeu de Paume  
*Extases*: screening of *Smoking* (1975-  
2015), *Flash Passion* (1970), *Sauro  
Bellini* (1982) et *Kha Les Embaumées  
du Cycle de l'Unheimlich* (1979-80):  
Talk with Katerina Thomadaki and  
Maud Jacquin

Wednesday 11 December, from  
6 pm to 8 pm,  
BnF| Richelieu, Conference room  
Klonaris/Thomadaki, *Night Show for  
Angel, le cinéma déployé* [Expanded

Cinema]: conference by Alex Chich  
and Katerina Thomadaki,  
introduction by Maud Jacquin

Thursday, 12 December,  
at 6pm  
Villa Vassilieff - AWARE: Archives  
of Women Artists, Research &  
Exhibitions  
"An Expanded Gaze: Klonaris/  
Thomadaki's Super 8 Film  
Workshops: Conversation and  
screening performance",  
with Catherine Bureau and Ana  
Bordenave. Event produced with  
AWARE

Saturday, 14 December,  
from 6pm to 8pm  
At Bétonsalon  
Conference by Antoine Idier, talk  
with Katerina Thomadaki, Vincent  
Enjalbert and Émilie Renard

Wednesday, January 15, 2025,  
from 7pm to 9pm  
"Vidéo et après" cycle, New Médias  
department, Centre Pompidou at  
Institut National de l'Histoire de  
l'Art (INHA) - Auditorium  
Jacqueline Lichtenstein  
*Klonaris/Thomadaki: Silence and  
sound*: Katerina Thomadaki in  
conversation with Marie José  
Mondzain

## Workshops

Wednesday, 16 October,  
from 2:30pm to 4:30pm  
*Perséphone*: Magic lantern  
workshop for children aged 6 and  
over, with Braquage collective

Saturday, 30 November,  
from 2:30pm to 4:30pm  
*Vénus*: Creative workshop on film,  
between adults, with Braquage  
collective

Wednesday, 4 December,  
from 2:30pm to 4:30pm  
*Orlando* : Family collage workshop,  
from 4 years and over

## Parallel programs

Friday, 11 October, from 3pm  
to 8pm

*Béton Book Club* : surveying  
session around Laura Marks book  
*The Skin of the Film*

Fridays, 25 October,  
22 November and  
6 December, from 6pm  
to 8:30pm

*Written with mittens*: writing  
workshop on and around art

Friday, 18 October, at 7pm  
Book launch of Julie Pellegrin,  
*(Non) Performance. A daily practice*  
(ed. T&P Publishing)

Wednesday, 6 November,  
at 7pm

*Bestiario de Lengüitas* (ed. K.  
Verlag) book launch and  
performance: with Mercedes  
Azpilicueta, Virginie Bobin  
and Emmanuelle Lafon.  
With CAC Brétigny

Thursday, 21 November,  
at 7pm  
At Bétonsalon  
Aron Barbier, "*Transer, murmurer.  
La communication des anges*"  
conference-performance as part of  
the Festival des Fiertés from 13<sup>th</sup>  
and 14<sup>th</sup> Town Hall, City of Paris

Friday, 29 November, from  
3pm to 6pm  
*Parties prenantes*: retroperspectives  
on the history of Villa Vassilieff  
around the show Teo Hernández,  
"Éclater les apparences" (2019)

Wednesday, 11 December,  
At Lecture hall Buffon  
*Thick presents*: Study session on  
science fiction with the Centre des  
Politiques de la Terre and the  
cultural department of UPC

All our activities are free, upon re-  
gistration: [publics@betonsalon.net](mailto:publics@betonsalon.net)  
For more information, visit  
[www.betonsalon.net](http://www.betonsalon.net)

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## About Bétonsalon

Bétonsalon develops activities in collaborative ways, with local, national and international organisations. Our program includes solo or collective exhibitions, with emerging, reemerging, confirmed or forgotten artists, multidisciplinary events with the best exchange quality, actions and research focused on mediation and experimental pedagogy, research and creation residencies, outdoor projects engaged with local visitors and structures, and other actions which are yet to be defined.

Bétonsalon is a nonprofit organisation established in 2003. Inserted within the campus of Université Paris Cité in the 13th arrondissement since 2007, Bétonsalon is the only certified art centre to be located inside a French University.

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## Practical information

Bétonsalon  
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9 esplanade Pierre Vidal-Naquet  
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[www.betonsalon.net](http://www.betonsalon.net)

Access:  
M14 & RER C  
Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand

Free entrance  
from Wednesday to Friday, from 11 am  
to 7 pm  
Saturday from 2 pm to 7 pm

All events are free of charge.  
The entire space is wheelchair-accessible. Group visits are free of charge with advanced booking.

Please check our programme on social media: X · Facebook · Instagram:  
[@betonsalon](#)

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## Press contact

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## With the support of

Bétonsalon – Centre for Art and Research is supported by the City of Paris, the Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs – Ministry of Culture, and the Île-de-France Region, with the collaboration of Université Paris Cité.

Bétonsalon – Centre for Art and Research is a cultural institution of the City of Paris, certified institution of national interest by the Ministry of Culture.

Bétonsalon – Centre for Art and Research is member of DCA / association for the development of art centers in France, Tram, réseau art contemporain Paris/Île-de-France, and Arts en résidence - Réseau national and BLA! - national association of mediation professionals in contemporary art, as well as a partner of the Souffleurs d'Images service for access to culture for blind and visually impaired people.

