

**Anticipatory Mythographies for Shared European Future(s):  
Beyond Verticality, Patriarchy and Misogyny**

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**THE PURPOSE**

The project's aim is to address the dry space of ideological disarray in Europe by re-enacting "the futures in the past" by activating the narratives that are common for Europe as an idea. The point of departure is Ancient Greek text "Theogony", assigned to a poet Hesiod, which went through centuries of being re-written from its archaic form to finally being imprinted in history in misogynist, imperialist and nationalistic 19th century, at the times when Classicism was turned into a tool for building ideological ivory towers leading to world wars. In our project, we see the narrative of Ancient Greek cosmogony as not historical, but speculative, subjective and prone to be continued for common living in constructed political imaginary for better futures. Approaching critically the figures of Zeus, Styx, Metis, Athena, Medusa, Medea and Dionysus, among others, transformation into characters of strict theological, political and ideological control we create the educational methodologies and the creative tools for unlocking the thingness in history to chart the ways towards shared and desirable futures.

**OUTREACH**

The project has a strong focus on outreach and inclusion of audience and students, in all project activities as an integrated part. The network is international in its core and will engage with students and audience, during workshops, exhibition, performances as well as in the production of the film.

The project's plan for communication and outreach includes:

- The website of the project will have an area for interaction and propositions for the audience, which is devoted to potentiality of engagement with the research in speculative and subjective manner, for example for producing artworks
- The methodology of the reading group will be available for reproduction in other institutions and organisations
- The presentation of performance programme in the end of the project will be held in a museum and wide range of the guests will be invited to get to know and further share the project outcomes and methodologies
- The final publication will be produced and distributed as a free .pdf
- The film will be proposed for screenings in the cultural institutions, centres and will be submitted for film festivals and various screenings

## THE PROJECT

“Anticipatory Mythographies for Shared European Future(s)” has been developed by a cross-disciplinary network of artists and researchers from Denmark, US, UK and Greece committed to exploring the potentiality of performance as a participatory tool for expressions of alternative European futures.

The proposed project seeks to merge the research on potentiality of “thingness within the objects of literary and material history” (Maksimov 2019) and expand performance perspectives on heritage (Haldrup and Bærenholdt 2015) by exploring how ‘speculative scenographics’ may be used to investigate how “thresholds of world” (Hann 2018) are negotiated through mythological and material heritage. Building on current ideas from speculative design (Dunne and Raby 2013; Haldrup 2015) a core activity in the network will be to devise scenographic methods for working with “anticipatory mythographies” (Maksimov 2018). Departing from notions of European heritage as being based on white, patriarchal and one-dimensional epistemology, the project seeks to enable queer agency within mythological narratives order in the worlds within museums to speculate “new patterns and new ways of making sense” (Ahmed 2006). These gestures are instrumental in the critical quest to define the politics and ethics of the Europe’s shared futures.

The project will be structured around three topoi: THE STUDIO, THE LAB and THE FIELD. Each topos will gather participants in the project to engage in activities, be open to local audiences and be part of the production of a film on anticipatory mythographies for shared European futures:

- THE STUDIO. During the research phase (Maksimov’s research at the University of Edinburgh and Roskilde University in cooperation with cultural institutions) we will work with critical reading strategies to resurrect narratives within Hesiod’s “Theogony” into potent source for alternative interpretations. In this phase the narratives, scenario and ideas for the upcoming film and experimental (including theatrical) presentations will be outlined.
- The FIELD. During the field phase we will do field trips to Athens (National Archeological Museum and Acropolis), Delphi (Delphi Archeological Museum and Archeological Site) and London (The British Museum), where speculative interventions as “queering tours” will produce new scenographic orientations that reorder material, texts and experts to be documented on film.
- The LAB. The production phase (Roskilde University in cooperation with Athens School of Fine Arts and The New School in New York, with cultural institutions in the region) and will include producing the film and setting up an interdisciplinary performance with reenactments and activations of anticipatory mythographies for shared European futures, which will be performed in Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Museum (Copenhagen, DK), following the established partnership in the course of the preparation of the project.