

ASFA BBQ: THE GARDEN OF DYSTOPIAN PLEASURES

15-21 September 2018

Athens School of Fine Arts

<https://fytafytafyta.wixsite.com/dystopianpleasures>

Organised under the umbrella of ASFA BBQ, the Athens School of Fine Arts yearly performance festival, the Garden of Dystopian Pleasures is a showcase of performance, talks, workshops, screenings etc on notions of post-truth cultures and the return of reactionary propaganda. The two years that have passed since asfaBBQ's utopian second installment, have brought humanity to a postmodern dead-end of unapologetic misinformation and have given birth to the alt-right, the coolest fascist movement the world has seen in decades.

With the unimaginative left being unable to respond and identity politics having been appropriated by the bad guys, the world can't help feeling that it experiences a regression to a pre-WW state or an acceleration towards an even greater catastrophe. Is there a way forward and out of this mess? Can we rethink identity politics? Can we repackage hope as sexy? Can we assist fake-news trolls to their self-destruction? The Garden of Dystopia Pleasures looks at ways of dissecting and digesting the enemy, through overidentifying with monstrosities of post-truth society and reevaluating the politics of (guilty?) pleasure.

The event is interested in opening up a series of discussions on works that deal with current political issues going past the space of a narrow political positioning and move towards the expression of an emotional turbulence and an embodied critique of the contemporary. The aim is to bring together a series of elements and people that wouldn't come anywhere near and to create a new context that allows new and unexpected connections. What would happen if one brought together the mysticist thirdpositionist philosopher Julius Evola speak after the performance of a Greek suppressed housewife or listened to a conspiracist Greek taxi driver after a presentation about the queer dimensions of Islam? These unexpected dialogues that happen through the week create a dense conceptual net that often leads to a new understanding of complex phenomena.



