

## **United States of Europe**

### ***A travelling exhibition about European identity and today's Europe***

Opening: Nicosia, Cyprus: 17 September 2012 | 7.30pm – 11.30pm

Duration: 17 September – 14 October 2012

*Do you feel European? Does Mr O'Keeffe in Ireland feel more or less European than Mrs Stylianou in Cyprus? And if so, why? What is the idea behind Europe and do Europeans feel included? Do Europeans trust their leaders? Maybe there are as many different answers on these questions as there are citizens in Europe.*

The artistic project United States of Europe (U.S.E) deals with these questions in the context of a travelling exhibition through ten European countries. The exhibition opened in Lodz, Poland in November 2011, the second destination was in Helsinki, the third in Vilnius and the fourth in Guimarães. Now the exhibition opens in Nicosia, as a part of the cultural programme of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

United States of Europe (U.S.E), a large-scale collaboration project about European identity, will further be presented in public spaces, galleries and museums in Germany, Bulgaria, France, Ireland and Belgium, until Spring 2013.

### **THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE U.S.E.:**

U.S.E is not propaganda for a federal Europe but it aims to create commitment in the Europe we live in, and to function as a communication platform for people living in Europe. The exhibition offers a lot of different interpretations on European identity and citizenship through diverse disciplines and angles.

U.S.E consists of four elements:

In the exhibition, **art works** (videos, photos, installations) are confronted with interviews from a **sociological study**. A **multimedia laboratory** - being an artwork in itself - combines sociology (interviews) with an artistic dimension and constitutes the heart of the exhibition. A complementary series of **debates** discusses and reflects upon political, social and cultural aspects of Europe.

**Johanna Suo** (Sweden/France/UK) has initiated the project and created the exhibition concept.

## THE ARTISTS:

**Diversity**, which is the core of the U.S.E is embodied by the artistic team:

Three curators, **Ryszard W. Kluszczyński** (Poland), **Anna Bitkina** (Russia), **Sinziana Ravini**, (Sweden/France), have each selected a group of artists. The chosen artists have international and multicultural backgrounds and they all deal with identity questions.

U.S.E presents works of **Luchezar Boyadjiev** (Bulgaria), **Anna Konik** (Poland), **Gerda Lampalzer** (Austria), **Maria Lusitano Santos** (Portugal), **Deimantas Narkevicius** (Lithuania), **Artur Zmijewski** (Poland), **Jean-Charles Hue** (France), **Kaarina Kaikkonen** (Finland), **REINIGUNGSGESELLSCHAFT** (artist duo, Germany), **Tanja Muravskaja** (Estonia), **Kennedy Browne** (artist duo, Ireland), **Apostolis Polymeris** (Belgium), **Kyriaki Costa** (Cyprus) and **Anu Pennanen** (Finland). The multimedia artist **Jānis Garančs** (Latvia) created the interactive laboratory. It is a hybrid communication platform for Europeans that encourages visitors to exchange and interact in real time.

The sociological core team consists of Prof. **Andrzej Piotrowski**, Dr **Tomasz Ferenc** (University of Lodz) and Dr **Lyudmila Nurse** (Oxford XXI, UK). Ten local sociologist teams have conducted five interviews in each participating country.

## THE U.S.E IN NICOSIA:

In Nicosia a walk is organised through the city: "Discover your city and discover Europe".

Several different venues are included in order to offer the exhibition to a wide audience. Among the presentations of the interactive laboratory is an (visual-audio) interview by the former Mayor of Nicosia Eleni Mavrou. The artist Kyriaki Costa presents brand new work created for the U.S.E exhibition at the new Loukia and Michael Zampelas Art Museum.

The exhibition in Nicosia is organized by the **Pharos Arts Foundation**, in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Paris, the Goethe-Institut Cyprus, Loukia and Michael Zampelas Art Museum, Institut Français Cyprus, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Cyprus, Nicosia Municipality, Classic Hotel, Temporary Space, Ledra Properties, The European University Cyprus, the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

## YOUR PARTICIPATION:

U.S.E is a project for citizens by citizens, and it aims to work as a communication platform. On the website as well as in the laboratory on site visitors are encouraged to express themselves and share their experiences in the form of photos or stories on the theme "My Europe". Look for the headline "Participate" and "Stories from Europe" on the website. Information is also available in the exhibition passport.

## THE OPENING:

**Opening – Monday, 17 September 2012 / 7.30pm – 11.30pm**

An organized walk starting:

7.30pm Loukia and Michael Zampelas Art Museum

8.15pm Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation, 'Old Market Pallouriotissa'

9.00pm The Shoe Factory

9.30pm The Temporary Space

10.00pm The Classic Hotel

And finishing with a cocktail reception at: 10.30pm Goethe-Institut Zypern

## VENUES IN NICOSIA AND OPENING HOURS:

**Exhibition duration Nicosia, Cyprus: 17 September – 14 October 2012**

### Loukia and Michael Zampelas Art Museum

27 Arch. Makarios III Avenue, Kaimakli, 1020, Nicosia

Mondays closed (except the opening night on 17 September) / Tue – Fri: 10am – 6pm, Sat – Sun: 11am – 4pm

### Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation 'Old Market Pallouriotissa'

7 Agiou Andreou Street, 1040, Pallouriotissa / Mon – Fri: 10am - 1pm & 5pm – 8pm

### Pharos Arts Foundation: The Shoe factory

304 Ermou Street, 1017, Nicosia / Projection: 1, 2 & 10 October at 8.30pm

### Temporary Space

33 Aischylou Street, 1011, Nicosia / Mon – Fri: 10am – 1pm & 6pm - 9pm

### Classic Hotel – the gallery

94 Rigenis St, 1513, Nicosia / Mon – Sun: 9am – 11pm

### Goethe-Institut

21 Markos Drakos Avenue, 1102, Nicosia / Mon – Fri: 9am – 7pm

For further information, please see the project website [www.go-use.eu](http://www.go-use.eu)

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*U.S.E is a European collaboration, coordinated by the Goethe-Institut Paris; the University of Lodz, Poland; the Lasipalatsi Film and Media Centre, Finland; The Red House, Bulgaria; the Centre of Culture and Art Initiatives, Lithuania; Pharos Arts Foundation, Cyprus; Transforma, Portugal, AIDA, Belgium; L'art au Quotidien, France, Cork Vision Centre and the National Sculpture Factory Ireland.*



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