

***Patridognosia** of least place**

Gefso Papadaki, born in Constantinople and living in Athens is a committed world traveller, moving from a city to another, from continent to continent. In her life she chooses the journey as a means of existence and expression and travels from Athens to Beijing and from Brussels to the Princes' Islands.

In different sections of her recent work, where she explores a palimpsest universe of sparse moments and elusive impressions, fragmental geographical punctuations and private memories, travelling becomes both the means and the place, the little homeland of an ideal tangible and conceptual moment.

Between the lines and the volumes of the shapes, the colour and the motifs, we can discern the presence of an outline, the shape of a strongly desired "other country", where the real and primordial experience and the nostalgia of the place are filtered into everything suspended. Maps and notes from cities, symbols and land mementos, unexplored streets, invisible passes, view openings, fissures of a realistic and imaginary memory co-exist in the papers and the canvases of the painter, composing a tender personal road diary and finally the journey of a personal *patridognosia*.

Gefso Papadaki uses not only oils, water colours, acrylics or mixed media on canvas or wood, but she also applies collage techniques (photocopies on Chinese paper, manual processing, overpainting). She thus arranges a multifarious spectrum of visual stimuli: an abundance of superimposed sketches, erasings transfigured into abstract organic shapes, horizontal and vertical areas and simple visual squares that articulate themselves on the painted surface in order to be cancelled and then again redefined with the help of the various uses of white. All these create as such revealing extracts leading the gaze to the core of an ideal known-unknown landscape, transfigured through its image projection to a new destination for the painter, to a new horizon for the viewer.

Iris Kritikou

Art historian- Exhibition curator.

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**patridognosia* (knowledge of one's homeland)

