



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CCS Bard Presents: *RETROACTIVE* **An Exhibition by Artist-in-Residence Antonis Pittas**

On View February 1-26, 2012 in the CCS Bard Galleries

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY, February 1, 2012 - The Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College (CCS Bard) is pleased to present ***RETROACTIVE***, an exhibition of site-specific works by Greek artist Antonis Pittas, who was CCS Bard's Artist-in-Residence in 2011. This installation builds upon the ongoing dialogue explored in Pittas' 2010 and 2011 exhibitions, *Untitled (this is a historic opportunity for us)* at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, and *shame on you*, at the Annet Gelink Gallery in Amsterdam, where Pittas lives and works.

RETROACTIVE was developed during Pittas' 2011 residency at CCS Bard in conjunction with discussions and collaborations with CCS Bard students. The work in the exhibition draws from a multi-dimensional series of cues offered by the architecture, institutional memory, and discursive space of CCS Bard and presents a platform for considering collective memory in the public sphere.

Pittas acts as a conduit in the development of his large-scale graphite drawings and sculptural objects, responding to and appropriating the shifting conditions of his physical site and its surrounding socio-political energies. Traces of the *Blinky Palermo: Retrospective 1964-1977*, exhibition which was previously presented in the CCS Bard Galleries, are reactivated by Pittas to illuminate the artists' shared engagement with the nonobjective work of the Russian avant-garde.

The shapes used in his work allude to picket signs and graffiti drawn from the Occupy movement, the Arab Spring, and protests in the artist's hometown of Athens. Such evocative aesthetic and contextual shifts mirror the memes of the current global climate of protest and upheaval. Likewise, texts collected from the public domain and fragments of news stories are promoted from the quotidian to the iconic. Drawn text "Let him go, let him go," chanted at a recent Oakland demonstration, snakes around the architecture like a paused ticker, toying with the viewer's perception of time.

The mercurial surface of graphite in Pittas's precisely rendered graphic and text interventions activates the concrete floor and white gallery walls of CCS Bard's gallery space. The viewer is invited to tread on the floor drawings, dismantling

the work by displacing the residue of the graphite, either as a passive or political gesture.

Antonis Pittas is an artist who creates context-specific spatial installations, which are informed by architecture, art-historical references, the performative aspects of installation art, and its social dynamics. The majority of his projects are developed over a long period of time, and always in relation to a particular site or context. Recent exhibitions include *shame on you* (2011) at the Annet Gelink Gallery in Amsterdam, *The Spring Exhibition* (2011) at the Kunsthall Charlottenborg in Copenhagen, *Untitled (this is a historic opportunity for us)* (2010) at the Van Abbe Museum in Eindhoven, *Every time you pass by* (2009) at the SMART Project Space in Amsterdam, and *Bargain prices on elephant gun* (2008) at the Ileana Tounta Contemporary Art Centre in Athens. Pittas is also an instructor at the Rietveld Academy and the Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For more information on Pittas' work, please visit his website:

<http://www.antonispittas.info/>

RETROACTIVE, as well as the CCS Bard residency, was made possible through the generous support of The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture (Fonds voor Beelende Kunsten Vormgeving En Bouwkunst).

Fonds voor Beelende Kunsten Vormgeving En Bouwkunst (Fonds BKVB) (The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture)

With their International Studio Program, the Fonds BKVB seeks to offer the opportunity to gain fresh or revived inspiration, to improve artists' career prospects by linking up with international and local networks, to gain knowledge of other (urban) cultures, a "time out", reflection on one's own work, on one's own career and on developments in the (international and Dutch) art world. Fonds BKVB also offers artists the ability to present their work in an international context. Exploring other cultures is becoming ever more important in a world where identity appears to be emphasized - or opposed - on the basis of the notion and interpretation of culture at various levels (national, social, individual). This is why there have been recent expansions of the offering with studios in Cairo, Curaçao, Rome, Istanbul, Surinam and Prague.

The Fonds BKVB has access to artist-in-residence places and studios in New York (ISCP), Annandale-on-Hudson (CCS Bard), Berlin (Künstlerhaus Bethanien and AiR Berlin Alexanderplatz), Paris (Atelier Holsboer), Banff (Center for the Arts, Canada), Rome (Projectstudio at the American Academy), Stockholm (IASPIS), Istanbul (PiST///), Cairo (Townhouse Gallery), Beijing (Projectstudio), Tokyo (AIT), Rio de Janeiro/Sao Paulo (Capacete), Curaçao (IBB), Belgium (WIELS), Prague (Meetfactory), and Moengo, (Tembe Art Studio, Surinam). The aim of the international studio program is to allow visual artists, designers and architects to work in one of these studios to enable them to develop and reflect upon their work in a different environment and culture. Such a residency also generates opportunities for making or extending international connections and for exploring and/or developing a new market.

About the Center for Curatorial Studies

The Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College (CCS Bard) is an exhibition, education, and research center dedicated to the study of art and curatorial practices from the 1960s to the present day.

In addition to the CCS Bard Galleries and Hessel Museum of Art, the Center houses the Marieluise Hessel Collection, as well as an extensive library and curatorial archives that are accessible to the public. The Center's two-year M.A. program in curatorial studies is specifically designed to deepen students' understanding of the intellectual and practical tasks of curating contemporary art. Exhibitions are presented year-round in the CCS Bard Galleries and Hessel Museum of Art, providing students with the opportunity to work with world-renowned artists and curators. The exhibition program and the Hessel Collection also serve as the basis for a wide range of public programs and activities exploring art and its role in contemporary society.

Founded in 1990, the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College opened its doors in 1992. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2012, CCS Bard will present a series of exhibitions by students as well as a roster of international artists working in a variety of practices.

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