

Press kit

Re/member Your House

2nd floor

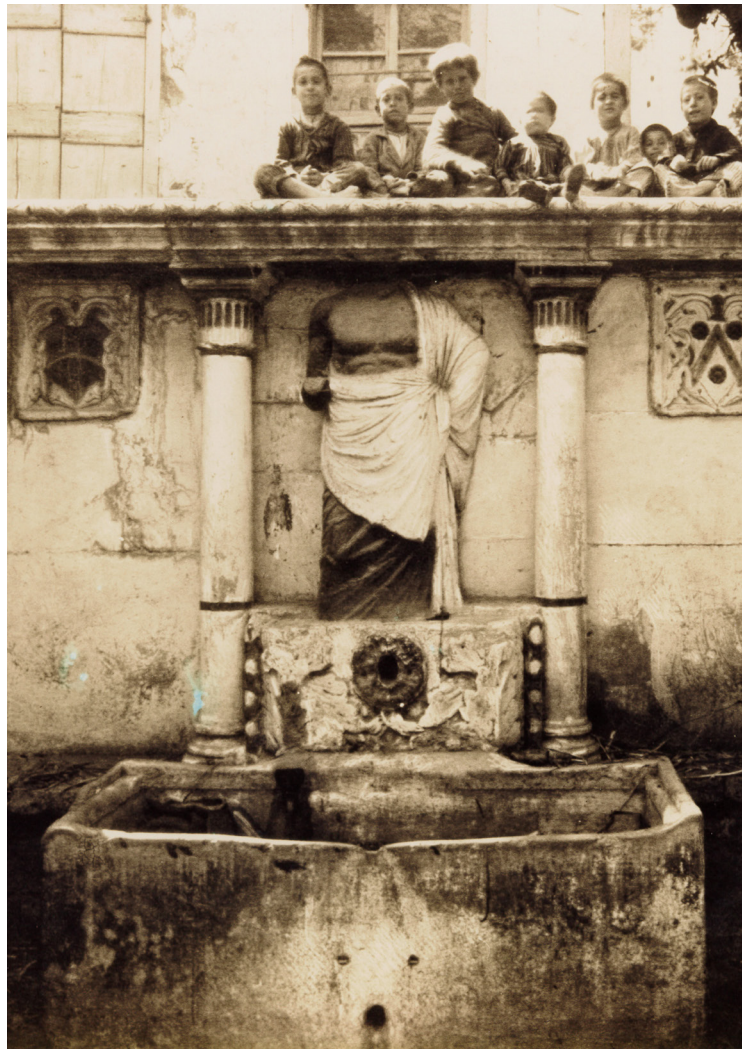
***the AfroGreeks* by
Døcumatism**

3rd floor

**Solo show by
Menelaos Karamaghiolis**

**November 1 –
December 23, 2023**

**Opening:
Tuesday October 31,
2023, 6 pm**



Found image Roman painted statue, Creta, G.Gerola
courtesy by Vikelaia Municipal Library of Heraclion

**Centre
d'Art
Contemporain
Genève**

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Re/member Your House

2nd floor

the AfroGreeks by
Døcumatism

Exhibition curated by
Grace Chimela Eze Nwoke

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is pleased to present *the AfroGreeks*, an ongoing project by the Athens-based collective Døcumatism.

A collective community project about the African Diaspora, *the AfroGreeks* was initiated in Greece in 2015. It encompasses an extensive series of videos, interviews, social interactions, research, and events.

The term Afro-Greek is a self-proclamation. It was used publicly for the first time in 2019 as the title of a video installation presented at a Døcumatism event that year. It launched the artistic movement documented here, doing much to stimulate a public discussion about the African diasporic communities in Athens and beyond. Initial events took place in the neighborhood of Kypseli, one of Athens' most culturally diverse areas which had been marginalized for a long time.

Over the years, Døcumatism has created a network of collaborators within a community whose protagonists are mostly second and third generation members of the African Diaspora in Greece. Collected by Døcumatism, their stories highlight the problems of integration linked mainly to marginalized trajectories. The resulting archive of audio-visual material represents the first attempt to document the history of the African communities in Greece in the twentieth and twenty-first century, as an integral part of the national narrative and Greek history. Beyond their role as protagonists, they are also artists and co-creators of the ongoing collective community project.

The presentation of *the AfroGreeks* at the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève will be accompanied by live events: concerts, workshops, open discussions and guided tours.

The exhibition includes an installation of a large number of videos and an archive/laboratory presenting all of the research on the African diasporas that the project has undertaken to date.

The presentation of *the AfroGreeks* at the Centre is curated by Grace Chimela Eze Nwoke, a Greek anthropologist and performer of Nigerian descent also member of the Døcumatism team. The title of the show pays homage to James Baldwin and his manuscript "Remember This House," which he left unfinished at the time of his death in 1987.

Live events:

Tuesday October 31, 8pm

[Performance *Afrodance with the Roots*](#)

Wednesday November 1st, 7pm

[Dance Battle with Mikel Ergar & Kofi Yiadom](#)

at Flux Laboratory

Re/member Your House

3rd floor

**Solo show by
Menelaos Karamaghiolis**

**Exhibition curated by
Andrea Bellini**

In parallel to the exhibition dedicated to *the AfroGreeks*, the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is pleased to present the first major European retrospective of the Greek artist and filmmaker Menelaos Karamaghiolis, also founder of Døcumatism.

On the third floor, the exhibition will explore the artist's complex approach toward the moving image, presenting his latest video works and installations in a space of over more than five hundred square meters and screening his films at the Centre's dedicated Cinema Dynamo.

Karamaghiolis' practice encompasses fiction film, documentary, installation work, and creative social interventions, all of which foreground stories of invisible everyday heroes. Those stories often connect to the ongoing crises defining the social fabric in Greece, but ultimately they speak to European society at large.

His films are usually set in Athens, which is brought to life in extraordinary and touching accounts through the director's eye. A Karamaghiolis film documents reality in a very personal and poetic way, inviting viewers to bring their own meanings to the scenes they witness. The proximity and empathy of the artist towards the protagonists has the potential to transform an everyday scene into something mystical.

In a career spanning four decades, Karamaghiolis has been able with his work to reveal the extent to which documenting real life can be an important starting point for art that is both contemporary and topical. His unique approach also allows him to question the effects of cinema on society while also inspiring audiences to engage with film in interactive ways.

In the context of his solo exhibition, Menelaos Karamaghiolis has decided to pay tribute to his friend Stelios Faitakis (1976-2023), an extraordinary Greek painter with whom he shared not only a passion for Byzantine Art but also a sense of tireless civic commitment. A dedicated room presents four paintings by the artist.

To mark the retrospective of Menelaos Karamaghiolis at the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, a monography will be published with LENZ Press in the coming year.

Biographies

About Døcumatism

A group of filmmakers, artists, curators, historians, social workers, researchers, and educators, Døcumatism was founded by the artist and filmmaker Menelaos Karamaghiolis in 2009. Starting with the moving image and documentary, the collective has gone on to organize art actions and public dialogue on critical social issues with the aim of exploring invisible and inaccessible landscapes and launching possible solutions to crucial social issues. Their goal is to initiate dialogue and make the “invisible” visible.

Through art actions, films starring real-life heroes, and stories that break barriers and stereotypes, the Døcumatism team makes film art a functional tool for those living on the margins of society.

The collective’s collaborations foster the interaction of artists, protagonists, and spectators; these figures work together to design art actions that focus on one key social issue at a time. Each issue functions as an “apparatus” throughout a given action’s preparation, production, and distribution, mobilizing broader debates and making the recipient and eyewitness *in situ*.

Website: documatism.com

Instagram page:
[@theafrogreeks](https://www.instagram.com/theafrogreeks)

About Grace Chimela Eze Nwoke

Døcumatism member Grace Chimela Eze Nwoke (b. 1994) is a Greek social scientist and performer of Nigerian descent. She completed her postgraduate studies in the department of social anthropology of Panteion University and is continuing her research about the African diasporas in Athens. She is in charge of Døcumatism’s research and community engagement and, together with Menelaos Karamaghiolis, has also organized live events and artistic supervision of *the AfroGreeks*. She has experience organizing live events, public discussions, educational and exchange programs, using creative artistic performances to delve deeper into matters regarding the inclusivity, visibility, and empowerment of African communities. She has organized events with municipalities as well as regions, governmental institutions, and organizations. Nwoke is a member of the theatrical group Vice Versa, co-founder of the team Bantu Dancers, and an active member of the African Cultural Community Vana Ba Africa and the Anasa Cultural Center in Athens.

Instagram profile:
[@gracy_ace](https://www.instagram.com/gracy_ace)

About Menelaos Karamaghiolis

Artist and filmmaker Menelaos Karamaghiolis (b. 1962) works in Athens on fiction films, documentaries, artist films, installations, and radiomovies starring real-life, overlooked heroes. His work transcends frontiers and stereotypes to serve as an essential tool for dialogue and social change. His films have been screened globally, garnering many international awards.

Karamaghiolis's feature-length documentary *ROM* (1989) was described as "a turning point for Greek documentary films" and "a masterpiece that must become a classic of the history of cinema." His feature film *Black Out p.s. Red Out* (1998) was hailed as "the first post-modern Greek film," while *J.A.C.E. – Just Another Confused Elephant* (2012) was included in 52 international festivals and received eleven awards.

Karamaghiolis also pioneered the first Greek interactive documentaries, *Meeting with Remarkable People* (an ongoing project involving 24 feature-length films and 180 shorts). In 2009 he founded the collective *Døcumatism*. Karamaghiolis's work has been shown at such international institutions as the National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens, the Venice Biennale, Rodeo, Serpentine, Haus N Athen, and the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, among others. He is currently working on video installations and live events of the ongoing collective community projects *the AfroGreeks* and *Greekies*.

Instagram profile:
[@menelaos.km](#)

Facebook profile:
www.facebook.com/menelaoskm

Images are available on the following link:
<https://bit.ly/3rLRqf7>

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