



NEW RELEASE 2024

Demetris Koilalous
Athens 42 Days
The Undisclosed City

Texts by Stavros Alifragkis, Titos Patrikios, Edgar Allan Poe
 Designed by Demetris Koilalous, Kehrer Design (Martin Lutz)
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Unseen Athens in 42 days of lockdown, captured through haunting cityscapes and solitary portraits.

In *Athens 42 Days. The Undisclosed City* Demetris Koilalous documents a unique moment in the life of a metropolis: the six weeks of the lockdown in the Greek capital, at the height of the covid pandemic in the spring of 2020.

The book is a collection of striking images, photographs of deserted streets, interwoven with portraits of individuals in enforced isolation in their homes.

These are the streets where in normal times crowds go about their everyday lives. These are the women and men next door. In “42 Days”, though, Koilalous captures the city and its people, at an extraordinary time and reveals urban facets, both public and private, that usually remain undisclosed. His photographs succeed in depicting the starkness of the empty cityscape alongside the frailty of the city’s solitary inhabitants and compose a lyrical elegy of images that are at the same time alien and intimate.

Athens-born photographer **Demetris Koilalous** studied Town and Country Planning in Edinburgh and Geography in London. Since 1990, he works as a freelance photographer and teaches photography. His works are included in private and public collections and have been exhibited worldwide.

His book *Caesura; The Duration of a Sigh* about the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean Sea, was published by Kehrer Verlag in 2018 and has received numerous accolades.

From the text *Reve Athéénien* by **Stavros Alifragkis**, architect: *The former part of the book provides the physical setting and the situational context for a second, equally crucial segment, one that cuts through the porous boundary of the street façade and decisively enters the nucleus of the urban apartment, where anonymous urbanites pose for Koilalous in a disarmingly relaxed manner – one that exudes surprisingly inviting overtones – and yet alarmingly revealing of the existential drama involved in imposed social isolation. This breakthrough is significant for several reasons and on multiple conceptual, symbolic and structural levels. First, Koilalous’s active probing into the dense phenomenon of the architectural façade from either side of the boundary – the public street and the private apartment – concretises and renders tangible its catalytic presence in the life of the city. (...)*

Koilalous’s dialectics of inside and outside transform the répétition différente of the Athenian street façade and the interstice of the balcony into an erratic interface of escalating awareness about the constricted space of the self, cast against the openness of the street, a surface that can only be ‘painful on both sides’ as it resounds the promise of a provisionally restrained freedom. (...)

The essentially humanistic quality that emerges by virtue of this discursive cohabitation cleanses Demetris Koilalous’s work from the menacing connotations of the urban uncanny, and bestows his emotionally charged images with a particularly dreamy quality, a photographic ode to the melancholic haziness of a truly Athenian dream.

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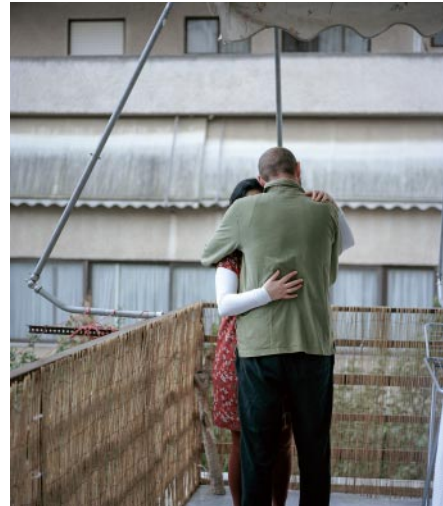
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