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ONE STEP FORWARD

TWO STEPS BACK

ONE STEP FORWARD

TWO STEPS

WARD

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BY Stefanos Tsivopoulos

CURATORS

Lanfranco Aceti

Vera Ingrid Grant

Washington DC

a 24-hour performance

from dawn of June 3

to dawn of June 4, 2017

ONE STEP FORWARD TWO STEPS BACK

What is a protest? And what does it mean to picket, to resist, to respond, and to give voice to one's social and political concerns? A protest will occur from dawn to dawn, starting on June 3 at 5:12 AM to June 4 at 5:12 AM, on the White House sidewalk on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. As political protests go, this may be the most unusual of them all.

There are no shouted slogans, no placards, no bull-horns, or chanting. This political protest presents the bodies of people walking one step forward and two steps back in silence for a cycle of twenty-four hours. Speaking to the complexity of contemporary times, the bodies of the participants will carry messages through the visible and invisible signs of their existence and characteristics of their bodies.

Stefanos Tsivopoulos originally choreographed the well-known saying, "one step forward, two steps back," which many Greeks used to say in order to sum up the current sociopolitical and economic condition in the country. The saying represents the belief that even though we move onward, we're actually heading back because the steps forward are not enough to move us towards our goals or social-political progress.

Lanfranco Aceti together with Vera Ingrid Grant had initially proposed to the artist to replicate the performance in front of the United States' White House, as a way of representing the weariness of the body engaged in the turmoil of contemporary post-democratic political processes; experiencing the "jagged grain" of lament and frustration, and yet vibrant with unruliness.



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY



STEFANOS TSIVOPOULOS is a Greek artist and filmmaker living and working between Amsterdam, Athens, and New York. His works often result from long-term research into historical films and photographic archives and is driven by an interest in the social, political, and economic aspects that determine the world we live in. He has exhibited extensively in both art museums and film festivals around the world.

A selection of Tsivopoulos's recent exhibitions include DOCUMENTA 14, Friedericianum, Kassel (2017); Kunsthaus Zurich (2016); MACBA, Barcelona (2015); Tate Modern, London (2014); MuCEM, Marseille (2014); 2nd Beijing Biennial, Beijing (2014); Haus Der Culturen Der Welt, Berlin (2013); SALT, Istanbul (2012); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2011); Manifesta 8, Murcia (2010); Smart Project Space, Amsterdam (2010); Witte de With, Rotterdam (2010); BFI Southbank, London (2009).

In 2013, he represented Greece in the 55th Venice Biennial with his video installation History Zero.

On top: Protesters at the White House

On the left: Stefanos Tsivopoulos,
Project Syntagma - One Step Forward
Two Steps Back



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