

THALIA GATZOULI

Pause / Undoing Time, curatorial text

In her double capacity as an artist and a nuclear medicine physician, Thalia Gatzouli focuses on the artistic rendering of scientific facts concerning humans, while meditating on the concept of matter and life and thus generating new images pool and interpretative tools.

Her new work focuses on the 21st-century medical myth (?) about the application of cryonics. Strong freezing, under strict technological control, keeps the body in a state of stagnation, awaiting its future return to life.

In the artist's own words, "in our era, the new conditions created by revolutionary developments in biotechnology dramatically change the reality that concerned human life until now. The limits and restrictions of organic chemistry are overcome, opening up new paths, thanks to genetic engineering, regenerative medicine, and nanotechnology. This will lead to new potentials of delaying the decaying and aging of cells, thereby delaying death, and making the myths of Prometheus, Faust, and Frankenstein less imaginary. Technology and science already provide humans with the ability to intervene in time and keep the human body (all or part) in deep freezing, separated from time and society, in a standby state, in an intermediate space, decisively dependent upon the functioning of inorganic materials, in the hope it can rejoin life when "judge" (?) that the conditions are appropriate. The dipole life-death differentiates (?) while the concept of life and time change and the human becomes non-mortal through waiting".

Gatzouli's work turns our attention to the grey area of technological and medical innovations, where important moral, philosophical, but also cultural, social and economic issues are raised; where the precise distinction between the states of life and death and, between soul and body, become blurred. The artist's approach highlights the importance of taking a critical stance towards major technological breakthroughs and makes the intersection between art and medicine important.

Thouli Misirloglou