

## VIRON EROL VERT

### *The Hermit*

EMΣT is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in Greece of the visual artist Viron Erol Vert, entitled *The Hermit*. Raised between Germany, Turkey and Greece in an intercultural family and environment, Vert's artistic interests oscillate between religious systems, cultural identity, and language. The artist's multicultural background plays a key role in his research and work, as does his close connection to the various sub-cultural contexts of Berlin's club scene.

Viron Erol Vert's site-specific immersive installation, *The Hermit* (2023), is created especially for the museum and is inspired by the work of Iannis Xenakis, the subject of two major exhibitions at EMΣT in 2023-24. It aims to explore several aspects of the avant-garde composer, architect and mathematician's practice as well as highlight the influence he has had on contemporary musicians and sound artists.

In his research, Vert focused particularly on Xenakis' early works such as *Six chansons pour piano* (1950-51) a short piano suite, which contains many elements of Romanian and Greek folk music. At the time of the piece's composition, Xenakis stated that he was searching for his cultural roots: "I was trying to find my identity, and my Greek origins suddenly became important to me; [...] Mussorgsky and Bartók reminded me that I had to understand and love Greek folk music." Subjects such as belonging, migration, speech sound, beat, and the rhythm of his native geography were analysed in Xenakis' early compositions. All constitute, in one way or another, cornerstones of his work.

The process of searching for one's cultural roots and identity is something Vert personally relates to due to the complex nature of his own background. Coming from Turkish, Greek, Arab, Levantine, Armenian, and Sephardic roots, Vert recognised in these early works of Xenakis, a curious, and experimental approach that resonated with him, qualities that inform *The Hermit*.

Vert's installation brings together different elements that Xenakis also deployed in his practice, such as architectural models, mathematics, geometric shapes or, for example, the Fibonacci sequence (in which each number is the sum of the two preceding ones).

*The Hermit*, ultimately, is an immersive, interactive gathering space with a nightclub-inspired aesthetic which will be filled with sounds composed by contemporary experimental musicians (both local and international). At the same time, the six windchimes at its centre, transform the space itself into a musical instrument. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves and enjoy the enveloping audio-visual environment the artist has created.

The exhibition will be activated on several occasions throughout its duration with live music performances.

Sound artists: Agatha & Kristianna Tsimpi, Korhan Erel, Franziska Lantz, PLO Man, Saint Precious, André Vida

Curator: Ioli Tzanetaki