

A woman in a light-colored, floral-patterned dress stands in shallow, clear blue water. She is holding a small, round object in her right hand. The background features a rugged, mountainous coastline under a clear sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

DESPERATELY  
SEEKING  
CIRCE

LAURA STEFANIDIS MICHELLE MADSEN  
GALLERIE 21 RESIDENCY APPLICATION

# DESPERATELY SEEKING CIRCE

A ritual clown performance, re-imagining female roles in ancient myths to see if they can transform future narratives.

'A darkly comic, dreamlike fabrication', *Desperately Seeking Circe* explores the identities and agency of women caught in tragic loops: Philomela, Circe, Pandora, Daphne and Medusa. Circe, the island-bound witch of *The Odyssey*, split into light and dark aspects and taking on characteristics of the title character of Madonna's iconic 1980's film *Desperately Seeking Susan* – is in the spotlight as she goes on a pilgrimage through myth for a new history.

Laura Stefandis and Michelle Madsen started work on *Desperately Seeking Circe* in 2018 in Greece and Germany, showing early versions of the piece at Paul Studios Berlin and at Choroskinisirythmos Studio in Athens.

The project was turned into a short film during covid and shown at Spinner und Webber Gallery as part of PAF Berlin in 2021. It is now being developed for the stage as an interactive stage performance premiering in summer 2024 with Gozde Atalay as director, with the support of Make-Up Space Berlin and Wiese e.G.



DSC PROJECT PHASE 1 RESEARCH - PHILOMELA  
AN OPEN AIR LABORATORY  
ACROPOLIS, ATHENS 2018

PHOTOS: PANANAGIOTIS KALLOGEROPOULOS

DSC RESEACH PHASE 2  
LAURA STEFANIDIS AS PANDORA -  
HAMBURG 2023



PHOTOS: JANA ROTHE

DSC RESEARCH PHASE 2  
MICHELLE MADSEN & LAURA STEFANIDIS  
- SEEKING CIRCE- HAMBURG 2023



LAURA STEFANIDIS  
- MEDUSA AT THE SALON -  
HAMBURG 2023 RESEARCH



PHOTOS:  
JANA ROTHE

DSC RESEACH PHASE 2  
MICHELLE MADSEN &  
LAURA STEFANIDIS  
- MYTHIC MASKS -  
HAMBURG 2023



PHOTOS: JANA ROTHE



IMAGE FROM  
DSC RESEARCH  
IN ATHENS 2018

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