



ik-**HO**-rus





*"As a multicultural artist, I am driven by my desire to locate myself. I attempt to trace the boundaries - physical, cultural, spiritual - of my persona in order to determine where I begin, where I end and where I belong.*

*Born in Greece, raised in France and now living in Egypt, my identity is in constant dialogue between the North and the South, the East and the West. My role as an artist is to build connections - between here and there, now and then, one and another - in the search for the smallest common denominators that unify us thru time and space within the human experience."*

**Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos**

# IK-HO-RUS

Birds have been creatures of the mythic imagination since the very earliest times. Subtle balance between the divine and mortal realms, men used to honor them but at the same time, could not prevent themselves from trying to emulate them in the hope that one day, they too, would be able to reach the skies.

*ik-HO-rus* brings together two references from the artist multicultural cultural heritage: Horus - the falcon-headed Egyptian deity of the Sun - and Ikarus - the Greek mythological character who, wanting to imitate the birds, flew too close to the sun, resulting to his tragic fall into the sea. Kosmatopoulos uses both myths as a starting point to create her own narrative and engage, with humour and absurdity, a social commentary on human ambition and Nature's boundaries.



*"Tell me, Muse of the man of twists and turns whose excessive ambition led him to defy Nature's higher powers and brought him to its ruin. His name was Ikarus...."*





## ACT I

*"Driven by an obsessive desire to surpass the limitations of human condition, Ikarus was dreaming of taking control of the skies, kingdom of the god Horus. So, he started cutting all the trees he could find around him in order to build the wings that will allow him to reach the divine realm. Horus was watching in silence the oblivious man as he was destroying the environment he was living in and his heart was filled with sadness and anger."*

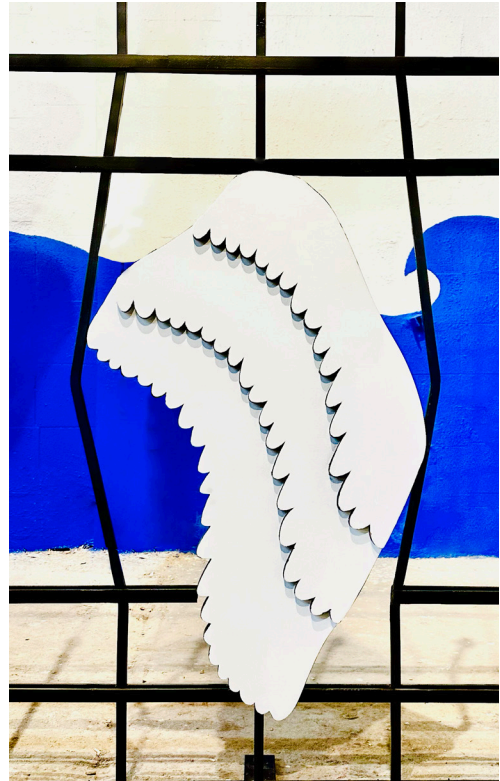


**ik-HO-rus - Act I**, 2023, Bronze, wood, soil



## ACT II

*"To put an end to this destructive human enterprise, the falcon-headed god went down to Earth and stole the man-made wings. Ikarus, blinded by his ego, chose to disregard the divine warning and, the wings being stolen, he went to the nearby forest to cut all the trees that were left and build a ladder tall-enough to reach the skies."*







**ik-HO-rus - Act II**, 2023, Bronze, wood, steel



## ACT III

*"That was enough of the god's patience. No longer ready to forgive the reckless human, he threw a powerful ray of sun on the ladder Ikarus was climbing, and broke the stair he was on. Ikarus abruptly fell into the sea where he met his end."*



**ik-HO-rus - Act III**, 2023, Bronze, wood, vinyl



*THE END*



# ABOUT THE ARTIST

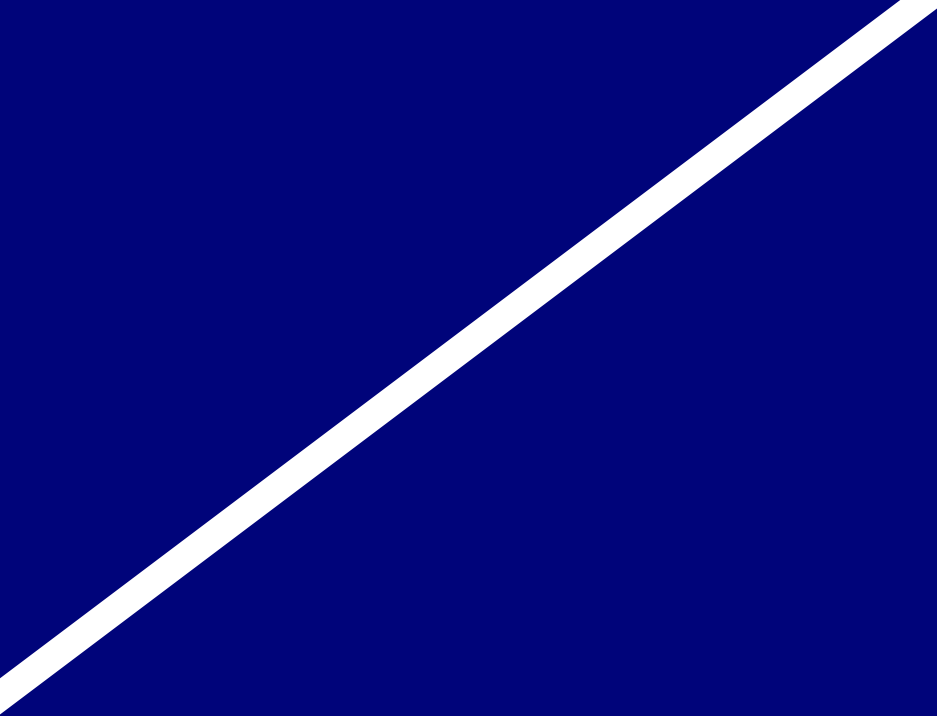
## Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos (Greece 1981)

Her work was exhibited in galleries and institutions internationally including Salzburg Contemporain (Austria), Künstlerhaus Wien (Austria), Kunsthal Aarhus (Aarhus, Denmark), Times Art Museum (China), Sainsbury Centre (UK), Somerset House (UK), Palazzo delle Arti Napoli (Italy), Gallerie delle Prigioni (Italy), Musée Zadkine (France), AMA | Art Museum of the Americas (DC, USA), French Institute of Athens (Greece), CICA Museum (Korea) among others.

She had numerous prizes and bourses among whom since 2016 : residencies at Townhouse (Cairo, Egypt), Le18 (Marrakech, Morocco), KAAF Institute (Teheran, Iran), BAR (Beirut, Lebanon),

MASS MOCA (North Adams, USA), Chinatown Soup (New York, USA); bourses from the European Cultural Foundation, the Contemporary art foundation (New York, USA), Harvestworks (New York, USA), the Jerome foundation (New York, USA).

Kosmatopoulos also worked alongside socially charged entities such as the Organization of American States (Washington DC, USA), the Kayani foundation (Beirut, Lebanon), UNICEF Blue Dot (Athens, Greece), One Happy Family (Lesbos, Greece) and the Museum Louis Braille (France) to create large-scale installations that raise awareness on social issues.



**THANK YOU**