

## **"The Room"** press release

"I never had my own bedroom, I always used to share it with my brother" says Fani when I ask her to give me an explanation for "The Room". The interesting thing in Fani Sofologi's installation, however, is not the realization of a past unfulfilled wish (re-installation of a desire), as we may assume from what she confides to us, but the fact that this work, as all her previous ones, is an attack to the psychology of the spectacle. In fact, this attack is based on the presentation of a personal mythology where the common blends with the private, the external with the internal, and then launches in a deconstruction of the usual means and ways of looking at something.

In "The Room", Fani looks at her bedroom as a landscape. The room is a place where we dream, where we can have secret thoughts of traveling in faraway places, where we can be locked to be left alone. In this Room, this "Wonderland" the artist acts different parts and turns into a different, mature Alice who meditates, contemplates and presents her old world to the new visitors-viewers. The camera is the key to the Room, the key to the interpretation of this installation. The camera is everything that the Room does not contain (mirror, window). In this way, it functions as a reversed mirror in the room or as a window to the outside world. It is, however, a window through which you can only be seen, be watched, and which transforms the two distinct places - the reversed real one and the real simulation - into two communicating vessels. Fani's work elevates a visual experience and makes it psychological in order to comment on significant matters of our time such as supervision (of innocence ?) and supervised space.

As an antidote to all this, Fani's Room absorbs you. It is the room of an imaginary reality, imaginary duality \*. It's a game between reality and the imaginary space. A game that seeks and finds its real self in a memory: «...I must have been about six years old and I was lying on the sofa in the living-room (watching TV?). I was probably thinking about something but I cannot remember what exactly. Then, suddenly, I made a movement backwards on the arm of the couch, bringing everything in my eyes and in my mind upside down. At that moment, I was on the ceiling looking at the floor...I loved the floor! As it was, Empty, with a vertical lamp in the middle. On an empty floor, I thought then, I could do anything I wanted and, first of all, I would furnish it the way I wanted. That floor would then be mine, my space. This thought, however, was not exclusively mine. As I have recently found out, my brother had the same idea. It's just that we never found ourselves in the same place, at the time making the same movement. When he was looking at the ceiling-floor, I was behind it, on the floor-floor».

**Christoforos Marinos**

\* Imaginary duality: The blending of images, in which two situations are observed from the same point thus altering our experience in time and space.