Yorgos Petrou
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Lives and works in London, UK


Yorgos Petrou’s practice seeks to examine and analyze geological strata, political and historical events, and to “excavate” elements that it then manipulates, displaces, photographs, and re-photographs to compose imagery that both contributes and responds to the understanding of the contemporary identity of a place. Landmarks (2016), for example, is a series of works constructed by layering reflective surfaces and manipulating prints, photographed in a studio and on site. The juxtaposition of image and object aims to explore the appropriation of specific places by personal, cultural, and political discourses. It deals with what connects individuals to those places and how they become sites of memory, legend, and trauma.

In this conceptual context, the artist also looks at the human body mythologically, culturally, physically, and emotionally. By displacing and abstracting it, the work investigates how it relates to land, and how it can become a site of individuality, hybridization, sacrifice, heroism, trauma, and dichotomy. Petrou uses photography and sculpture to address aspects of individual and national identity embodied in the landscape, and formed in relation to the geological strata of a place.
Point Home, C-Type Print, Brown tape, 59.5 x 84cm, 2016
Landmark III, digital print on paper, copper plate, concrete (detail), 140x12.5x10cm, 2016