Efy Zeniou (b.1987) completed her studies in Poetry Writing at London School of Journalism (2011) and holds a BA in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent University (2009), with Andrew Brown and Duncan Higgins as her main supervisors. She completed an art foundation course whilst studying for a BTEC with Theodora Papachrysostomou. She is currently a member of the leavinghomefunktion//cominghomefunktion collective and is based in Halle, Germany. leavinghomefunktion//cominghomefunktion includes: Kaupo Homberg (EST), Johannes Fötsch (DE), Elisabeth Oertel (DE), Anne Knödler (DE) and Efy Zeniou (CY).

In 2014 leavinghomefunktion collective initiated a transcontinental project, starting from Germany, and aiming to reach NYC. For over 2 years they exported their daily artistic process to mobile studios. This meant leaving behind the privacy found behind closed doors of their European home territory in exchange for exploring the world through Russian sidecar vehicles. Placing themselves in a state of public they came into close contact with everyday life and learned new ways of seeing and acting. Their choice of vehicle was intentional: a very basic and slow machine, well known by local culture and reputable for its long list of breakdowns. For the artists this tool acted as the perfect key to communication, which took down the borders of both national and disciplinary categories. Without a clue in mechanics, and far from home, they managed to maintain their bikes for over 40,000 kilometers while opening up a space for problem-solving and storytelling. The peak of their journey took place where Siberia ends: they engineered an Amphibious organism out of their failure prone motorcycles. For 1600 km, and the extension of 1 month, they drove on the Kolyma river which leads to the Arctic Ocean. Through an overlapping repertoire of failings, the group managed to create a supportive network of unexpected characters from the extreme remoteness of the East to the heavy overpopulation of the West. During their long adventure the concept of “failing” – unlike “failure” – established itself as a major tool. In 2017, after an infinite series of mishaps and breakdowns, their Sisyphean efforts came to a halt: they managed to push the boulder to its final NYC stop.
leavinghomefunktion, Amphibious Ural 650, documentation from driving 1600 km on the Kolyma River, 2016
leavinghomefunktion, The Theatre of the Ural - A Play in Breakdowns, self-made bureaucracy for performance based research, 2015