

Tim Rollins & K.O.S.

13 November – 11 December 2008

Andreas Melas Presents is pleased to announce a solo exhibition with new works by American artists Tim Rollins (1955 born in Pittsfield) and K.O.S whose work spans twenty-five years of work.

K.O.S. is a group of youths who studied in public schools in South Bronx with whom Tim Rollins launched in 1984 the 'Art and Knowledge Workshop' in Bronx. These students named themselves "Kids of Survival" at a time when South Bronx was especially violent. Stemming from troubled social environments, these students made art, both literally and figuratively through collective reading of great authors – Ray Bradbury, Albert Camus, Stephen Crane, Herman Melville, Franz Kafka, Nathaniel Hawthorne and also classical literature – Shakespeare, Sophocles, Aristophanes. Unintentionally, a member of the group painted directly onto a book page, giving thus birth to the artistic idea of fixing book pages to a canvas onto which selected works of the K.O.S. would be transferred. Later the music of Joseph Haydn, Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Richard Strauss would also be employed in similar fashion, with the sheet music forming the background for further works.

AMP

The exhibition presented at AMP gallery includes new works on canvas – *Invisible Man* (after Malcolm X), *By Any Means Necessary* (after Ralph Ellison), new works on paper – *Study for The Metamorphosen* (after R. Strauss), *Prometheus Bound* (after Aeschylus), *Oedipus Rex* (after Sophocles) and the sculpture *Pinnocchio* (after Carlo Collodi), an older creation (1992) with a pair of supplemented eyes, replicating the eyes of a K.O.S member, commenting thus on the bond between Tim Rollins and the K.O.S.

Regarding the creation the *Invisible Man*, the IM stands for the connection between art, literature, religion and politics. One can make out the letters IM on the pages of Ralph Ellison's work, painted in minimalist fashion. For Rollins, these refer to the title of the book, and to the biblical declaration Tm the Lord your God...', the last two letters of the word 'victim' and the speech by Martin Luther King from 1968, Tm a Man'.

The works of Tim Rollins and K.O.S. are part of more than 80 public collections –the MoMA, the Art Institute (Chicago), the Dia Center of the Arts (New York), the Tate Gallery (London), the Bronx Museum. A newly released dissertation by James Romaine, as well as the documentary film receiving awarded a Grammy Award in 1996 attest to the art-historic significance of Tim Rollins and K.O.S.

For further information please contact the gallery at info@a-m-p.gr.