

T.A.M.A.

Temporary Autonomous Museum for All)

A museum without walls

I've always found art in the most unexpected places: in the sheds set up at the edges of a city; in the way a woman wears a patterned skirt with a patterned blouse; in a sidewalk paved with marble slabs; in a Perrier bottle cap. The Greek word for art - *techne* - still holds the promise of linking handwork with know-how: a practical problem with a beautiful solution. In my work, I use myself as a means to create a dialogue with other people and to understand *techne* as an active social process, filled with both conflict and potential.

In this sense, I suppose that my art-making, which is about process and change rather than finished product, can be considered a form of activism. I view art production as a humanist endeavour, because I see art in humanity as well as something involving and affecting human lives. Activists scrutinize society and work to improve it. What's more, the changes they manage to bring about on a local level set precedents that resonate beyond borders. Likewise, I believe that we artists must train our gaze on what's around us to make art that is relevant not only to the era and place of its creation but that also has the potential to transcend the topical, to speak a universal language, and to carry its impact into the future. Art may not be able to change the world, but it can certainly make people think.

Maria Papadimitriou