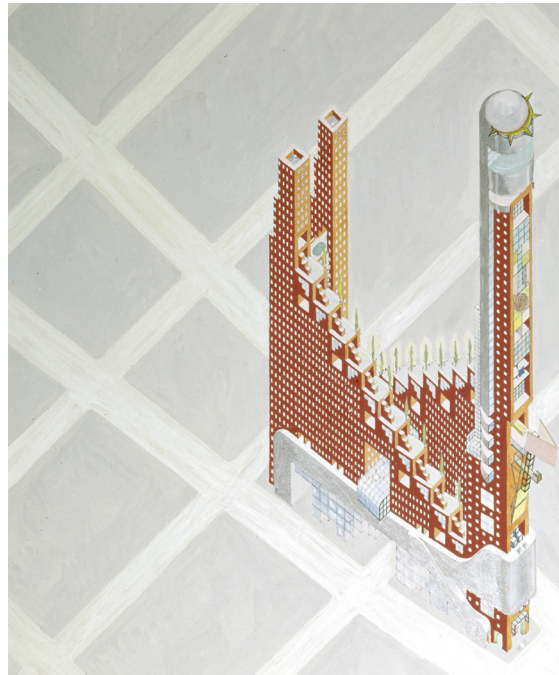


Zoe Zenghelis

Do you remember how perfect everything was?

Opening Thursday 3 December 2020 (booking essential)

3 December 2020 — 30 January 2021



Zoe Zenghelis, Hotel Sphinx, 1975, acrylic and ink on paper, 32 x 27 cm

Betts Project is delighted to host 'Do you remember how perfect everything was?', the first retrospective exhibition of the works of Zoe Zenghelis. The exhibition is curated by Hamed Khosravi, architect and educator at the AA School of Architecture. As a two part exhibition with the Architectural Association, Betts Project presents the first part as a review of Zenghelis' early paintings from the 1960s, her years at OMA (Office for Metropolitan Architecture) including works of the Hotel Sphinx project, Roosevelt Island, Antiparos and Parc Citroën through to recent works made in 2020. Stretched between abstract metropolitan tectonics and landscape structures, the selection of Zenghelis' paintings represent an enquiry into absent architectural projects. An exhibition catalogue published by Betts Project will accompany the exhibition, while the second part of the project will be hosted by the AA in January 2021.

"In Zoe Zenghelis' contained paintings, there is, again paradoxically, a suggestion of space stretching far beyond our perception, a celestial city, without limits. The eye is as absorbed by the space between the forms themselves, set into informal procession. But it is picture making beyond the stage, set somewhere between the contrived and the natural, the abstract and the representational. These imaginary spaces are inspired as much by the urban grid of London, the cities of concrete, as the islands of the Ionian Sea, their whiting gleaming houses bleached by light, the surrounding water both absorbing and reflecting the glittering sky. Space and territory, our own and others, is a question of politics and aesthetics. These paintings hint at imagination's journey. As the poet E.E.Cummings once phrased it, always the beautiful answer to the beautiful question." - Marina Vaizey, 1992

Zoe Zenghelis is an Athenian artist who has been living and working in London since her student years. After studying painting in Athens she continued her study in stage design and painting at the Regent Street Polytechnic under Frank Auerbach, Lawrence Gowing, and Leon Kossoff. She started her painting career as a founding member of OMA, whose collaboration with other OMA members has widened their horizons and opened new opportunities for them in painting and architecture. Her paintings for OMA have been exhibited in many museums and galleries. Zenghelis' independent works as a painter have been widely exhibited and published. The paintings are inspired by metropolitan structure, landform, and abstract tectonics. Yet the imagery is quintessentially modern and modernist: it is an imagery of the fragment, the collage, the assemblage, the parts standing for the whole, and often greater than the whole. From 1982 to 1993, in partnership with Madelon Vriesendorp, she ran the Colour Workshop at the Architectural Association School of Architecture.

Appointment essential. Please email info@bettsproject.com with your preferred date and time.

In order to provide a safe environment for everyone, government health and safety guidelines will be followed. We ask visitors to wear a mask and respect social distancing upon your visit.

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Address

Betts Project
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Opening Hours

Wednesday – Friday 12:00 - 18:00
Saturday 12:00 - 17:00
or by appointment

About Betts Project

Betts Project is a London-based contemporary art gallery specialising in architecture, founded in 2013 by Marie Coulon. The concept behind Betts Project is to introduce both a specialist audience and wider public to new ways of discovering and thinking about architecture, through the exhibition and promotion of materials integral to architecture – largely drawings, but also models and other forms of representation. It aims to support and promote work by established and emerging international architects, as well as lesser known or overlooked practices still very much relevant to the contemporary discourse.

The gallery is also driven by the desire to introduce architectural objects as works of art. To do so, it organises high calibre exhibitions for new and established audiences and participates in art fairs, and thereby brings unique collectable works to the market at an affordable price.

Over the past years the exhibition programme has featured solo shows by established international figures such as Peter Wilson, Manthey Kula, Denise Scott Brown, De Vylder Vink Taillieu architects, Florian Beigel and Philip Christou, Caruso St John, Alexander Brodsky, Lars Lerup, Tony Fretton, Fred Scott, Studio Mumbai, Richard Goodwin, Peter Märkli alongside artist Hans Josephsohn, Pier Vittorio Aureli, and OFFICEkgdvs with photographer Bas Princen.

To find out more visit: www.bettsproject.com and sign-up to the Betts Project newsletters.

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