

A FILM BY QUOKKA

WOMEN OF SAOS

ELENI
ZAFEIRIA

EVANGELIA
VALENTINA

LEMONIA
EFTHYMITSA

THE DOCUMENTARY IS PART OF THE PROJECT "THE RIVER BENEATH THE RIVER", CURATED BY DIMITRA TSIAOUSKOGLOU, RESEARCH AND CREATION BY QUOKKA (ALKISTIS VOULGARIS & MINA KOUVARA)

Trailers : <https://youtu.be/l4sPuSr1dJ4>

<https://youtu.be/UmsMON2UxVY>

Specifications

Project Type: Documentary

Runtime: 18 minutes 5 seconds

Completion Date: May 7, 2022

Country of Origin: Greece

Country of Filming: Greece

Language: Greek

Subtitles: English, Spanish, Italian, French, Polish, German, Armenian, Slovak, Portuguese, Slovenian, Serbian

Shooting Format: Digital HD

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Film Color: Color

Credits

Alkistis Voulgari : **Director**

Quokka (Mina Kouvara & Alkistis Voulgari) & Room 37 Artworks : **Producer**

Lemonia, Evaggelia, Eleni, Valentina, Zafeiria, Efthymitsa : **Key Cast**

Dimitra Tsiaouskoglou : **Curator & Research**

Quokka (Mina Kouvara & Alkistis Voulgari) : **Research**

Alkistis Voulgari : **Filming – Montage**

«Zervos», «Baiduska», «Giariska» traditional dances of Anatoliki Romylia : **Music**

«Ksenitemeno mou pouli» by Isokratisses traditional song of Epeirus : **Music**

«Little lemon tree» by Valentina : **Music**

«Little lemon tree» from «Thiasos» by Theo Aggelopoulos : **Music**

«Lilly Marlene» by Marlene Dietrich : **Music**

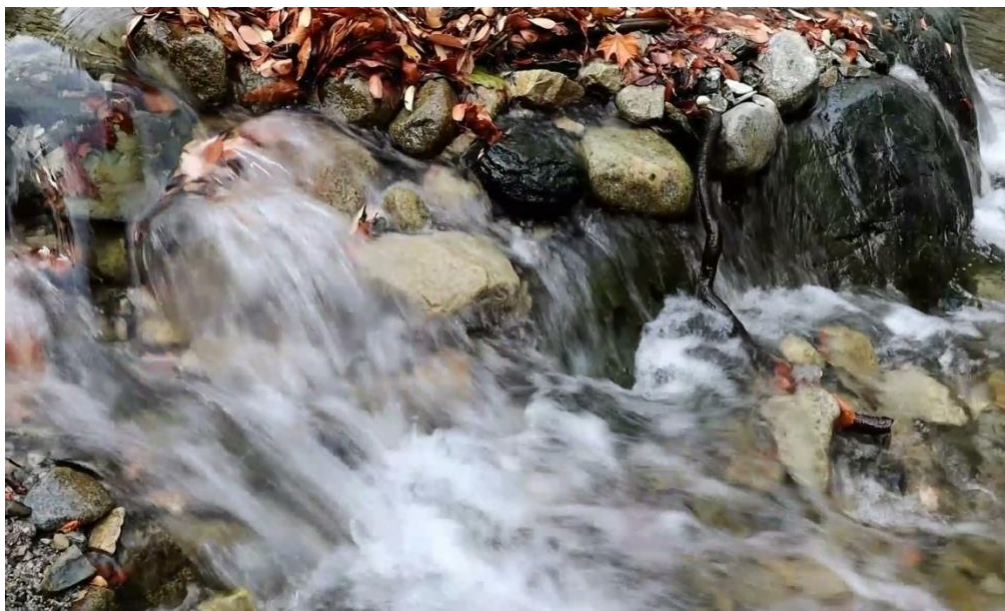
«Giar – giar» traditional song of Samothrace : **Music**

Description

Quokka, the artistic duo of Alkistis Voulgari and Mina Kouvara, embarked on a research journey in Samothrace, to connect with local women, especially farmers. On the road they met LEMONIA, Evaggelia, Eleni, Valentina, Zafeiria, Efthymitsa and shared moments of life, laughter and local food! Each one was a unique experience but all of them connect through the island's past and the challenges of everyday life.

On the land of Samothrace, with the wild nature, under the shadows of Saos, still one's soul feels free and hope runs again through the heart.

Enjoy the Women of Samothrace, the Women of Saos!



On Inspiration :

The inspiration was the island of Samothrace, its historical background and beautiful nature but mostly the people – especially the women. We were interested to see how people interact with the environment, to learn about their lives because Samothrace is considered to be an «acritic» island of northern Greece. We found out through the stories of the women that most of them were immigrated to Germany – there was a big community of Samothracians in Stuttgart – they worked there and came back. It was so exciting and inspirational to connect and learn from them how they keep the house, the family, the rural work, to hear them narrating their stories. Surely, those women are ordinary heroes – heroes of everyday life. They give lessons of sustainability, independence, freedom, self reliance and inner strength.

On Intention :

If we say that earth is our mother, Women of Saos express the Mother archetype through their life stories. The message is to be self reliant and free, to respect the nature, the environment, to enjoy life and to face all the circumstances with a humorous spirit. Our intention was to learn first for ourselves with those interviews, to be moved and then to deliver our experience to the world.

It is always important for those stories to be heard because we are all special – wide known or not. Oral life story narration is one of the most strong and real documents throughout human history.





Contact & bio

alkistiskou@gmail.com

<https://filmfreeway.com/alkistisvoulgari>

Alkistis Voulgari was born in Athens. She is an actress and dancer specialized in Isadora Duncan's Dance Technique. The last two years she started her own filming experimentations and performance creations which contain Theatre, Poetry, Literature, Dance and Radio Art.

Her work has been presented in many different countries, in festivals, exhibitions and theatres as the Short film Panorama and Academia Romantica of Athens, Avatar Center and Porcovete Pictures in Canada, UNU – Flores and Technische Sammlungen in Dresden, International Multimedia Art Festival in Serbia, Verti Films in Prague, On the Rocks Film festival and Festival del Cinema di Cefalù in Italy, Museum of Dead Words in Brooklyn, NY.

The start was made by the experimental short film «Dancing in the Silence» from the «TERRACE PROJECT» which was hosted at Bibart's Biennale Internazionale D'Arte di Bari and received an honourable mention from the Navajo Film Festival.

She is gradually visualising and working on the reconnection of the Theatre with its natural roots by improvising and exploring the primitive idea in an open, natural space where the film camera becomes the «eye of the director» and an eternal narration of the theatrical, performative, human and life experience.



Contact & bio

Mina.koov@protonmail.com

<https://minakoov.wixsite.com/foiomix>

Mina Kouvara is an artist/maker, architect and independent researcher, and Junior Research Fellow at the Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance, Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech) as well as an independent researcher. She holds a MSc in Environment and Development of Mountain Regions from the Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and a Diploma in Architectural Engineering (TUC) and is affiliated with the research collective [P2P Lab](#). She is a founding and former core member of the NGO “Boulouki”, that focuses on the traditional building techniques; And also, in early 2020, she co-created the art initiative “Quokka” along with her sister Alkistis Voulgari.

Her approach, as a practitioner and researcher, is based on transdisciplinarity and bridging the gap between theory and practice. Access to knowledge, landscape and culture comprise the core of her work, which is dedicated to rebuilding our relationship to Nature, History and Beauty, while keeping our collective intelligence sharp.

Currently, she is working with the [P2P Lab](#), fusing more aspects of her research and practice aiming to reach out to more people and disciplines, and challenge her creative and intellectual boundaries.



Quokka - artistic duo

Alkistis Voulgari & Mina Kouvara

Quoka.libera@gmail.com

Portfolio : https://issuu.com/quokka-libera/docs/quokka_portfolio

Website : <https://quokka-libera.weebly.com/>

Quokka

GR

Quokka is an artistic duo of two sisters, Alkistis & Mina, who complete each other as artists and human beings. They joined forces during lockdown in early 2020, while trapped in their shared apartment in Athens, Greece. Our work is aiming to explore ways of recovering our disturbed relationship to nature and speak of the injustice that has been normalised within our societies.