

GALLERIA VALENTINA **BONOMO**

ANTONIS DONEF



OPENING

Tuesday April 21 2026 3-9PM
Galleria Valentina Bonomo
Via del Portico d'Ottavia 13 Rome

PRESS RELEASE

Bonomo Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of the solo exhibition of Antonis Donef, on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, from 3 to 9 PM at Via del Portico d'Ottavia 13.

For this exhibition project, Antonis Donef (Athens, 1978) presents a selection of recent works that further develop his research into the themes of memory, systems of knowledge, and the stratification of images.

The artist's practice unfolds through a process that combines drawing, collage, and interventions on printed materials, giving rise to dense and complex visual surfaces. One of the most distinctive elements of his work is the use of pages from books, encyclopedias, atlases, manuals, and other printed documents as the support for his pieces. Donef does not use these materials merely as a physical base; rather, he deconstructs, reassembles, and transforms them, intervening with intricate layers of marks, erasures, and superimpositions to create imaginary maps or visual archives. In this way, systems of knowledge originally intended for the transmission of information are reworked and translated into new visual and narrative compositions.

The works presented in the exhibition reveal this labyrinthine and contemplative dimension of the artist's practice. The viewer is invited to engage with the works through a slow and intimate process of observation: from a distance, the compositions appear as complex, almost abstract visual fields; upon closer inspection, however, minute details emerge—fragments of text, hidden images, and micro-structures that gradually surface from the density of the picture plane.

VIA DEL PORTICO D'OTTAVIA 13 ROMA
WWW.GALLERIABONOMO.COM

BIOGRAPHY

Antonis Donef (1978) is a Greek artist who lives and works in Athens. Donef constructs a pictorial surface made entirely of words and excerpts taken from old encyclopedias. Upon this rich and multifaceted mosaic, the artist intervenes with the same audacity as a child who, driven by the urgency to create images, disrupts a work of art without hesitation, regardless of whether it is an original or a simple reproduction. Donef breathes new life into obsolete texts through a new abstract language that resembles hieroglyphs. The starting point of his practice is the accumulation of a large number of old encyclopedias sourced from second-hand bookshops in Athens. This is followed by a meticulous selection of the pages he finds most suitable, which he then uses to create the background of his works. The time-yellowed pages are glued onto the canvas in a precise and balanced composition. The final stage is the most critical, as it involves confronting the surface he has created and leaving his mark upon it—an arduous process that requires a systematic approach. His works are part of numerous private collections and several institutions, including the UAE Royal Family Collection, the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority Collection, the Dakis Joannou – DESTE Foundation Collection, and the European Central Bank Collection. In 2010, he received the “Art House Shanghai Residency Award.” Donef is also included in *Vitamin D2*, one of the leading surveys on contemporary drawing published by Phaidon.

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