

[poem, title unknown]

Katerina Gogou

1986

She bent her pale head with a sigh
and fell asleep
for ever
Above her the sky mountainous
Barren landscape -dark-
stones only and rocks not even rain...
Bride you with the plastered mouth red
Brocade hands melted handiwork
Offered pleadingly
Some lilies
Around the fresh earth your girlfriends
Sad and over-painted
Making strange noises
As craving attention
In order to play in some film
Here this ring child poem
Word of Honour
This hour that the future-ones
Learn the eagle's flight
This hour that your forehead
Reveals what is hidden
Always the same hour
That the RED KNIVES
Kill the Different ones...

“The red knives in the poem referred to the traditional communist policy against homosexuality deemed by the KKE [Communist Party of Greece] “a bourgeois perversion that will disappear with the revolution”. The mid 1980s was a time of fierce gay liberation struggle in greece. Only a few years

before, in 1979, the right wing government had proposed a law for the displacement of homosexuals to barren island camps. The law was overturned only by way of mass grassroots reactions as well as international pressure from intellectuals like Foucault and Guattari. The struggle against the displacement law was the cradle of the gay liberation movement of the 1980s mostly led by the leftist group AKOA. The most militant part of the struggle however was played by transvestites (this was their self-referential term) who even clashed with riot police forces. Sonia was an anarchist transvestite closely related to Paola, the leading anarchist trans figure of the decade who published Kraximo (Heckling) a transvestite anarchist magazine that led her to numerous arrests. Sonia's assassination and the abandonment of her brutalised naked corpse on desolate rocks on the Attiki coastline was an emblematic call to arms affair at the time." – Switch-Blades in Dirty Dead-Ends, Negative Press

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The Absentees poetry collection

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