



## **Recycling and Materiality of Fabrics**

*What if gentrification hold an opportunity?*

Here we are at Communitism, an independent cultural centre in an Athens neighbourhood in the midst of a complete transformation.

Metaxourgeio, in central Athens, is a neglected neighbourhood with 163 abandoned historical buildings. During the past two decades, young creatives of the city turned it into the epicenter of collaborative artistic practices. However, being right next to the historical center of Athens, it has also attracted the interest of international real estate investors.

Communitism is on a mission of claiming space for the inhabitants and creatives that are now being displaced, within the abandoned historical buildings of the neighbourhood, also marginalised by the prevailing historical narratives. As gentrification is bringing the city to a polarisation that it has never experienced before, we aim for a culture of respect and coexistence.

After being expelled from our cultural center of 6 six years, Communitism is now setting up a new space, Kookooli, a cocoon meant to nurture our vision. We invite you to make it together, through collaborative practices designed to bridge social gaps and inspire creativity.

Here, where everything is mixed, diverse and ready for new uses, we will try to think and experiment with new practices of reusing materials and spaces in a circular economy perspective.

Our hope is that the ongoing gentrification can be an opportunity to a transformative process towards places that are more welcoming to all living beings, instead of more and more exclusive and exclusionary.

"Communitism reclaims unutilised heritage buildings of Athens through creative commoning. By practicing community and arts, alternatives to existing structures emerge."

### **Photos by Joe O'Connor**

