

**For Immediate Release**  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024



*A Partial History (Drawing III) (detail)*, 2023, Graphite on 300gsm rough press watercolor paper and red oak, 43 x 66 inches

Photograph by Erynn McConnell

## *A Partial History*

April 12 – May 15, 2024

Marina Kassianidou

**Opening Reception: April 12, 6-8pm**

**Conversation between Marina Kassianidou and Mary Annuziata and publication launch:  
May 15, 2024, 6-7pm**

**NARS Project Space**

NARS Foundation is pleased to announce *A Partial History*, an ongoing work engaging with the multidimensional character of marks, language, translation, embodiment, knowledge, and history.

Kassianidou began this work in 2016, as she was leaving her home country, Cyprus, and immigrating to the US. The work revolves around a collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century books—primarily schoolbooks—written in Greek, that belonged to the artist’s grandparents and great-grandparents and that the artist found in her late grandmother’s library. Fields covered in these books include history, geography, Greek grammar, and religious studies.

Kassianidou “re-reads” each book as a material object rather than a text, focusing on marks of use and time: folds, creases, tears, stains, pencil marks, discolorations, and wormholes. For each book, she meticulously traces these marks by hand, page by page, and then prints and binds the drawings into a new book containing only the excavated marks. The recreated books become archives of lines, suggesting narratives of time, touch, and distributed agency. They become alternative history books, recording the history of handling of each original book—a history unfolding in parallel with family, local, national, and world events.

Furthering this process of book translation, Kassianidou makes two-sided graphite drawings based on the book tracings. These drawings are approximately ten-time magnifications of the tracings, referencing human scale. One drawing corresponds to one

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book, with one side depicting the marks from the odd pages superimposed and the other side the marks from the even pages. The accumulated lines map the shifting terrain of each book while compressing time and revealing its effects all at once.

The exhibition juxtaposes two languages: Greek, which may be unreadable to a non-Greek-speaking audience, and the drawn marks, which evoke different forms of “reading” and “writing.” The “unreadable” marks recall an embodied and potentially shared mode of knowing, one that depends on touching, feeling, and handling objects. These marks may be more readable to a non-Greek-speaking audience than the Greek characters in the original books. The lines between readability/unreadability and language/non-language dissolve through our shared movement in and touching of the world.

**About the artist:**

**Marina Kassianidou** was born in Limassol, Cyprus, and lives and works between Limassol and Boulder, Colorado, USA. She received a B.A. in Studio Art from Stanford University, an M.A. in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, and a Ph.D. in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Arts, London, UK. Her work has been exhibited internationally at spaces such as the House of Cyprus (Athens, Greece), NiMAC (Nicosia, Cyprus), Thkio Ppalies (Nicosia, Cyprus), Tenderpixel Gallery (London, UK), Stand4 Gallery (Brooklyn, NY), Yes Ma’am Projects (Denver, CO), Lane Meyer Projects (Denver, CO), and Rule Gallery (Marfa, TX). She has been awarded residencies at the Ragdale Foundation, Hambidge Center, Ox-Bow, and The Studios at MASS MoCA, among others. She is a recipient of the 2016 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant.

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The NARS Galleries are open Monday - Friday from 12 to 5 pm. For more information, please call the office: 718-768-2765 or email [info@narsfoundation.org](mailto:info@narsfoundation.org).

**The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization committed to supporting artists and curators on an international level as well as engaging the local community in Brooklyn and the Greater New York area. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.



NARS exhibition programs are made possible in part through the generous support from **the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts** with the support of the **Office of the Governor** and the **New York State Legislature**, and, in part, supported by public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the **City Council**.