



In 25 Lemon Trees, No Gardeners, Källström-Fäldt follow up on the media depiction of the Greek crisis. The vantage point is a fake news story published by a number of major European news outlets. The headlines exclaimed that the Evangelismos Hospital in Athens had 45 employed gardeners but no garden, and this came to be a perfect metaphor for a stereotype of Greek wastefulness, one of the presumed reasons behind the Greek economic crisis. The truth of the matter was that the hospital indeed had no garden, but neither did it have any gardeners. Upon closer inspection, it did however have 25 lemon trees.

In the early morning of June 27, 2015, the Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras announced that a referendum was to be held on whether the country should accept the bailout conditions proposed by the Troika (the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund). The polls published by the European media prior to the referendum showed a clear lead for the “Yes” vote.

25 Lemon Trees, No Gardeners  
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However, they were all unexpectedly proven wrong, as “No” won by a landslide. Regardless, with some good old strong-arming, the “No” was turned in to a “Yes”, and austerity was implemented. During the first half of 2015, the media reported on the presumed likelihood of a Grexit.

After the Greek bailout referendum, the media focus shifted to the refugee crisis—up until June 23, 2016, that is, when the UK voted for Brexit.

Concluding the project, 25 Lemon Trees, No Gardeners carries a photograph taken on the day of Brexit, when Källström-Fäldt found themselves anew in Greece—this time at the port of Kavala, where thousands of refugees had set foot throughout the preceding year.

On January 31, 2020, the Brexit came into force and the UK membership of EU ended. On the same day, the first case of Corona virus in the UK was confirmed.

The series of world crises paint an eerie yet precise picture of the never-ending news cycle. An issue that is all consuming today becomes completely overshadowed by the next narrative tomorrow.