

17 Ιουνίου 2015

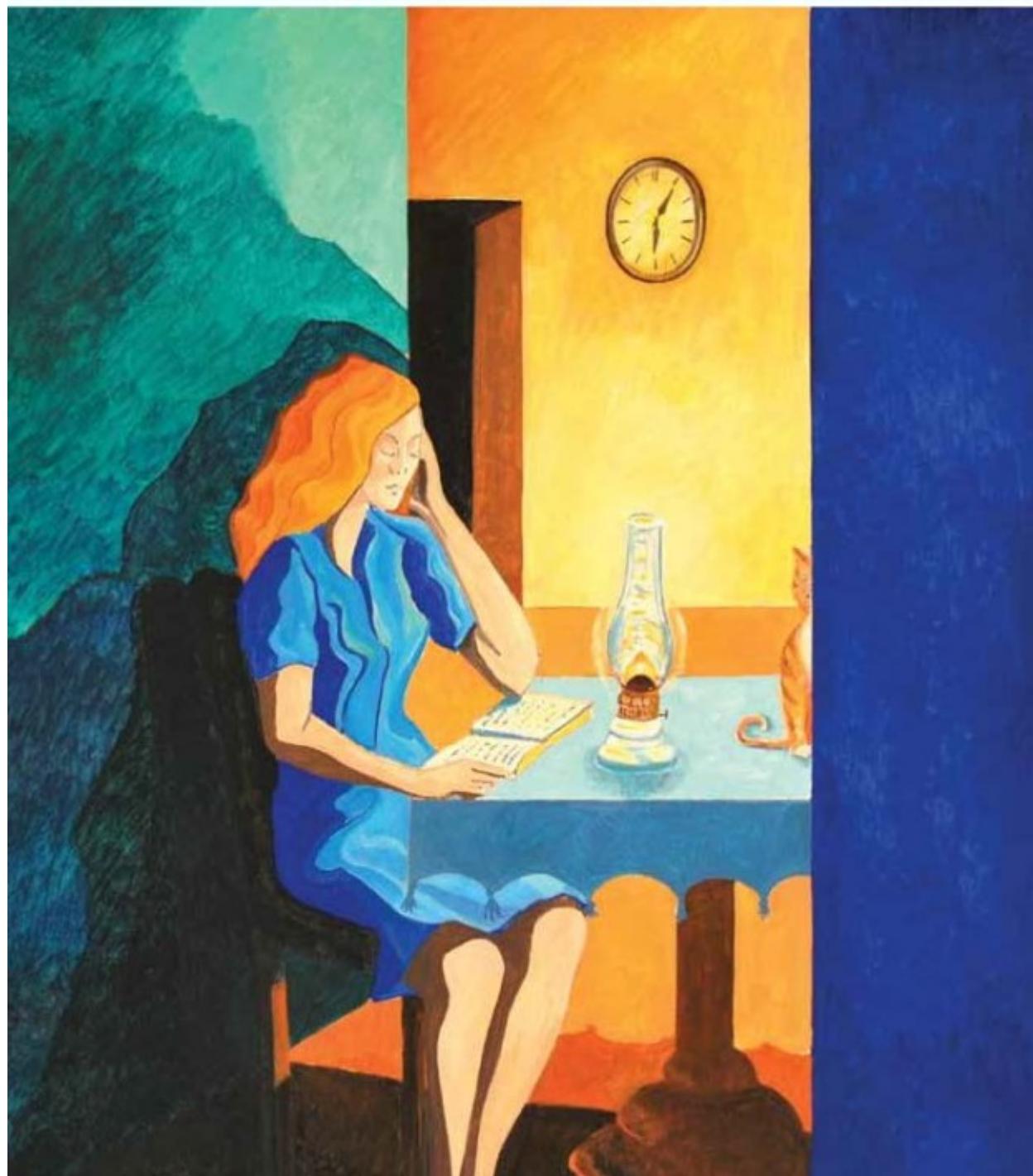
# Cyprus Today, January-March 2015

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# Cyprus

TODAY

Volume LIII, No 1, January - March 2015



## Global recognition for Cypriot poet Roula Ioannidou Stavrou

Cypriot poet Roula Ioannidou Stavrou gained international recognition for the second year running after receiving an Honorary Mention for her poem *Yellow Ribbon on the Tree* at the XXX Nossida World Poetry Prize 2014 in Italy. The Prize is part of the UNESCO World Poetry Directory.

Our national poet received the Nossida Medal and Certificate, while his poem has been included in the "Nossida Poetry Anthology 2014" e-book, which will soon be available online at [www.nossida.org](http://www.nossida.org).

The winners of XXX Nossida World Poetry Prize 2014 were announced during a special ceremony in Reggio Calabria, Italy, on 28 November 2014.

*Yellow Ribbon on the Tree* deals with the drama and suspense suffered by relatives to missing persons throughout the world, who anticipate – and hope – for their loved ones' return.

Hundreds of poets from across the globe took part in the competition, under its President, Italian Professor Pasquale Amato. An International Panel of Judges comprising sixteen eminent literary personalities was nominated after the application deadline and was dissolved after the last meeting before the competition.

Roula won a similar distinction at a poetry competition in Greece, which awarded her compilation of maxims entitled: "Behind the Lines", which tell the story of how pupils contributed to the Cypriot 1955-59 National Struggle.

### About Roula Ioannidou Stavrou

Roula Ioannidou Stavrou was born in Nicosia, Cyprus. She studied Greek and English Literature at the University of Athens. She later



received her RSA TEFL Diploma (UK) with distinction in English Language Teaching.

She has served as a teacher in secondary education and, in parallel, as a researcher, writer, anthologist and editor of publications at various departments of the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture. She has also served on editorial committees of anthologies and other publications, and as a Consulting Teacher.

She writes poetry, prose and drama and has published 23 titles to date.

Roula has received awards and distinctions for her literary work both in Cyprus and overseas, including prizes for the entirety of her work and for her contribution to Letters and Culture.

She is a regular contributor to respected literary magazines in Cyprus and abroad.

Her work has been published in translation in self-contained volumes or featured in foreign anthologies and magazines. It has also been presented on radio, television and stage. Her poetry has been set to music and released on CDs.

Roula Ioannidou Stavrou is also an accomplished illustrator whose work has received various distinctions.



## Editorial

This issue of Cyprus Today starts off with the State Prizes for Literature, presenting the award-winning authors of books published in 2013 as well as the awards ceremony, which was addressed by the Minister of Education and Culture, Costas Kadis.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Cyprus Contemporary Dance Platform follows, this year having hosted 15 established and younger choreographers to celebrate the equivalent number of years since the Platform was first established by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Services were also behind the blossoming of the global phenomenon *Piano Art. I'm Yours*, an interactive installation which saw local artists decorate pianos that were then placed around the capital city for all to play and enjoy.

We also present the Centre of Visual Arts and Research, which opened its doors to the public in Nicosia last September, and of course we had to follow the celebrations to mark the A.G. Leventis Gallery's one-year anniversary in February. One such event was the Gallery's first ever international temporary exhibition entitled *Nativity Stories*.

The late Minister of Education and Culture, Pefkis Georgiades, continues to provide support and love to those in need, eight whole years after his sudden passing. Widely acknowledged as the children's favourite minister, the Musical Talent Development Program has confirmed this by holding its annual concert in his memory, with the proceeds going to the Patients Welfare Council of Archbishop Makarios III Hospital in Nicosia.

Speaking of classical music, the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra (CySO) kept classical music lovers entertained over the chilly winter months with a variety of performances.

Our issue also presents The Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC) and National Theatre of Greece signed a Protocol of Cooperation on 22 January 2015, opening the way for the two theatres to implement an artistic programme aimed at promoting and developing the art of theatre.

We are also proud to present Cypriot director Kyriakos Papavassiliou's achievement of having his film *The Impressions of a Drowned Man* selected as among thirteen other international movies to compete in the competition section of the 44<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Rotterdam, which took place on 21 January – 1 February 2015.

We follow it up with Cypriot poet Roula Ioannidou Stavrou, who gained international recognition for the second year running after receiving an Honorary Mention for her poem *Yellow Ribbon on the Tree* at the XXX Nossida World Poetry Prize 2014 in Italy, and member of the Greek Cypriot diaspora Petros Hadjioffis Makris with his first book, *The Apostate*.

We wrap our issue with two painting exhibitions: Sami Kerr's collection *The Magic of Heaven and Earth* and Yannis Petekanis' 30<sup>th</sup> solo exhibition *The World of Cyprus*.



2<sup>nd</sup> Cyprus Contemporary Dance Platform



Tourist Attraction



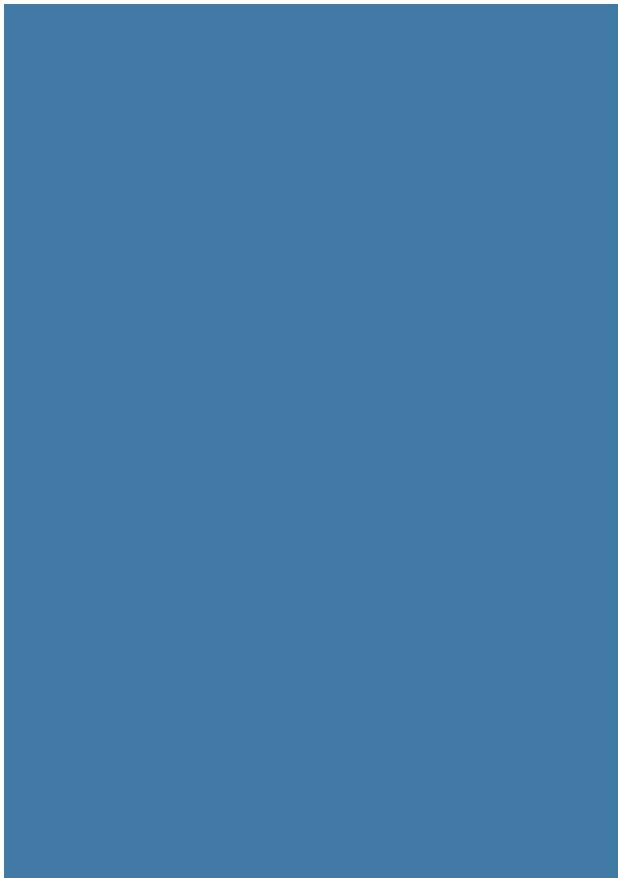
The Impressions of a Drowned Man



Newer 7<sup>th</sup> of April

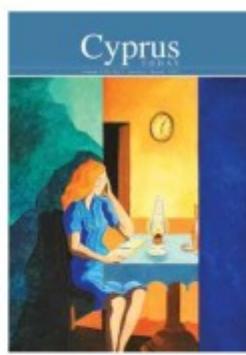


Play me, I'm yours



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The magazine can also be found under Press and Information Office website [www.mineduc.gov.cy](http://www.mineduc.gov.cy).

## 15<sup>th</sup> Cyprus Contemporary Dance Platform

Risto Theatre – 6, 7 and 8 March 2015

The Contemporary Dance Platform for the year hosted 15 established and younger choreographers. Participation in the Dance Platform was a highlight, with groups that impressed, intrigued and enthused their audience through duets, solo pieces, intensive performances, dynamic expression, movement and intensity.

As is the case every year, renowned personalities from the international dance community, representatives of international dance festivals, choreographers and journalists attended the performances and interacted with the dancers and the students.

This year, Dance Platform celebrated 15 years of life, hosting 15 established and younger choreographers. Friends of contemporary dance met at Risto Theatre for 3 days of unexpected creativity and fantasy.

Co-organized by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, and Risto Theatre in Limassol in cooperation with the Municipality of Limassol and Dance House Lemnos, the Contemporary Dance Platform included parallel events under the heading "Dance Throughout the Year" with presentations and discussions held in the past year by the Dance House Lemnos.

This year's "Dance Throughout the Year" Programme included a round table discussion with the artists and the Dance Platform guests, *Guest by Arsenia Michael, Double Days by Eve Denison, workshop and master class by Marie Irion for professional dancers, Make the Trap by Periot Konstantis, and The Silver Quality by Harry Koutoulas*. All parallel events took place at Dance House Lemnos.



Stomach Rumblings - Photo by Arthur Rafa



### This year's performances

Armenia Maroulidou | Stomach Rumblings 10'

Zoe Georgalaki | For your entertainment only... 10'

Foto Nitolaou | Ireland 20'

Accelerate Dynamics | Machi Dimitrakou-Lindahl | Gate 20'

Hamilton Monteiro | Merlin's dress 15'

Elena Antoniou | More 20'

Vicky Kalaiq | Big laugh for ever 10'

Harry Koutoulas | MAN-OEUVRES 20'

Mila Bredin in collaboration with Marinos Konstantinou | In between now 10'

Choreography Oraida Pende | Raulis Klewoodos | Sandhill 20'

Noemi Dance Works | Alessandra Whalenill | Lightless 18'

Konstantina Saliotata | In the likeness of... 10'

Transfiguratio | Alessia Kirolos | I will darken you down 10'

Alexander Michael | Diluted Intentions 20'

Milena Ugnen Krstulic | Happiness 15'

### Stomach Rumblings with Arsenia Maroulidou (10')

Choreographer / Performer: Arsenia Maroulidou

Costume design: Panos Bartzis

Concept: Arsenia Maroulidou, Panos Bartzis

Set design: Emi Kone

Costume advisor: Christina Georgou

Costume: ALLSTAR BOUTIQUE

Light design: Aleksandar Jotovic

The relation of sound frequencies with the human physiology, movement and emotion. The idea behind this research stems from a series of data based on scientific studies and observations.

Specific sound frequencies can be linked up to 5 frequencies travelling through the air and up to 20 frequencies in the form of seismic waves travelling through the ground. High frequency sound waves can transform small drops of water into complex geometric shapes, while lower frequencies create simpler forms. Thus, how do sound frequencies influence the physiology of the body, consisting of 65-70% water? How is that combined and connected with movement and emotion?

## Narrative

By majority, the Judging Committee decided to award the State Prize for Narrative published in 2013 to Leontis Zafirios, for his work *Με Μάλιστα και Λύπη* (With Reverence and Sorrow) by Gentileides Publications.

*Με Μάλιστα και Λύπη* contains short stories which refer to the tragic moments of the history of Cyprus, through an approach which is reflective and directed towards trauma, memory and returning. The protagonists of the stories are ordinary people who the narrator deutes to heroes and victims of the mechanisms of power in an amputated homeland. They are the endorsed off-thresholds who are yet to be vindicated, the lost young men of the Greek Army Contingent in Cyprus and their parents who met at the cemetery of Makarios, the student volunteers who embarked like other Argonauts on an expedition which failed, never reaching its destination, they are also, however, the children on whose faces hope is preserved. The narrator moves within a "labyrinth with no way out", not as a cold spectator as one who observes the suffering, often in situations of impasse and tragedy. The reader can discern an auto-biographical substance in the book, but also an excellent example of the resonance of personal experience into literature. The short stories in the collection do not just preserve "the shattered face of the island", but are also states of human pain and perception which acquire a diachronic significance.

### Narrative Shortlist

*Η Ηρωική του Αφέλειού* by Alexandros Adamiatis  
Angeliki Tsoulioti for *Εγκέλαδος* (Unleashing: The Women and the Gobind),  
by Stella Vafeidou Economou (Technokratia Publications)



decision of the Judging Committee:

In Alexandros Adamiatis novel *Το Αθέλειον* / *Aphelio*, the young protagonist is an anti-hero who is searching in adverse conditions to find his place in the contemporary world of crisis. He travels to Europe in search of work, but also meaning. He suffers, struggles to find a path and often finds it in dreams and fantasies and in adventures which bring to mind a detective film. The wonderful descriptions and lively dialogue, the amazing digressions, the reflective techniques and the interrelated exchanges lead the novel an intensity which is redolent of accomplished studies of the novel. The new writer from Limassol skillfully conveys in his novel the anxiety of young people in the modern societies of alienation and poverty and the desperate struggle in search of identity.

### Best New Writer Shortlist

*Η Ηρωική του Αφέλειού* by Alexandros Adamiatis  
Angeliki Tsoulioti for *Εγκέλαδος* (Unleashing: The Women and the Gobind),  
by Stella Vafeidou Economou (Technokratia Publications)

## Children's Literature

The State Prize for Children's Literature published in 2013 was unanimously awarded to Phanis Hadjimastas for his book *Σε Δέτο Καύσον της Ήλισσης* (Violet's Weather Forecast) by ABA diadem Publications.



An imaginative and tender short illustrated story that gets to grips with the young child's need for optimism, Phanis Hadjimastas takes a somewhat whimsical approach to the garrison in gap in his book *Σε Δέτο Καύσον της Ήλισσης*. The story is narrated from two perspectives, that of the parents' harsh reality and that of their nine-year-old daughter. The dimension of reality and the imagery, the conflict between the fictional heroine and the adults over the line between desire and discipline, all find a release through Little Violet's imagination. Upset after hearing the weather forecast on the news, warning of snow in the city and lambasting the activities she had



decided that the State Prize for Youth Literature published in 2013 would not be awarded.

The youth literature books that made the shortlist were:

*Το Κέρα της Άνεμων* (Horns of the Wind), by Taxis Aristedous (A. Aristedous Publications)  
*Στη Ρεβεντία του 2013* (In the Revenant of 2013), by Philippo Zanetou and Dora Evangelidi (A. Boekwurm Publication)  
*Δύο Έτη σε Φούρων* (Two, Louie and Ibd), by Maria Olympia (Ilio Kyros Publications)

## Illustration in Children's/Youth Book

George Gavriel won the State Prize for Illustration in Children's/Youth Book published in 2013, for his work on K. Chrysos' book *Ο Αριόκος της Περσέπολις* (The Hedgehog of the Moon Town) by El Typos Publications, by a majority decision of the Judging Committee.

George Gavriel's illustrations successfully accompany and support the text of K. Chrysos' book, characterised by the author's personal style and charm. The figures are depicted clearly and simply, giving the impression of being in discourse with each other. The Judging Committee felt it was a generally qualitative publication, though it presented certain elements in the design that have room for improvement and which to an extent, did not do the illustration enough justice.

## Illustration in Children's/Youth Book Shortlist

*Σε Δέτο Καύσον της Ήλισσης*, by Phanis Hadjimastas (ABA diadem Publications)  
*Περέψη*, by Andri Antoniou (Panayiotis Publications)  
*Ο Ζωνάρης Γαύτη* (The Scoundrel Cat), by Maria Kandili (Pergo Publications)  
*Ρε στο Στένο Δουστού* (Light in the Dark Room), by Frans Maeselis

## Youth Literature

The Judging Committee – Anastasis Karagiannis (Chairwoman), Katerina Katsarou, Elena Pendeli, Kiki Pothitou and Flori Timoleon – unanimously

*George Gavriel for K. Chrysos' Ο Αριόκος της Περσέπολις*  
*Βίβια Βασιλείου for Valentine Theodorou's Το Λαζαράκιον* (The Littlepop) by Tepedemos Publications  
*Βασίλης Ελεύθερος for Katerina Tsatsa's Μαύρα Φιορεύφια* (Moral Fairytale) by Kalentis Publications  
*Κωνσταντίνος Κουρτσίδης for Phanis Hadjimastas' book Σε Δέτο Καύσον της Ήλισσης*

The members of the Judging Committee for the State Prizes for Literature were:

François Ambatopoulou (president), Panellis Voutzioti, Kyriacos Demetrios, Yiorgos Kalomis and Kyriacos Chasiotis.

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## 2014 Cyprus State Prizes for Literature

The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture recently announced the results of the national literary competition for the State Prizes for Literature (for publications of 2013). The Minister of Education and Culture, Costas Kadis, presented the winners with their awards in a special ceremony that was held on 2 December 2014 at the Palae Theatre in Nicosia.

The ceremony opened with a performance by the Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra and addressed by Minister Kadis.



Poetry

By a majority decision of the Judging Committee, the State Prize for Poetry published in 2013 was awarded to Eleni Kefala for her work *Οχονοργία* (Slicing Time) by Neil Publications. The collection of poems

brings together the virtues of a bold experiment. The poet seems to explore the limits of poetic expression, replacing the voice of the lyrical text with polyphony through a particularly interesting synthesis in which voices, essences, cultures and historic moments are entwined. The architecture of *Οχονοργία* is characterised by reflection and intertextuality. An anonymous and almost elusive Cypriot meets Christopher Columbus and his compatriots, there is also the Caribbean John Keats and the Scottish Rutherford, Miguel de Cervantes and Rabelais, and many others; people more or less well-known from Greek and world history and literature. Ships that cross the seas of the world, with passengers and crews from far and wide carry the diachronic and inter-cultural message of poetry as the premier testimony, not of the famous but of the anonymous. This poetical composition by Eleni Kefala creates a multi-prismatic mirror of the fate of the culture in all corners of the world, while at the same time it creatively stirs the imagination of readers and makes them participants in the journeys



Opera Youth Symphony Orchestra



The 2014 Cyprus State Prizes for Literature

of the imagination through time. The exquisitely well-presented publication, which makes use of ideograms and an original arrangement of the text, gives additional stimulus to the reader. A road between sky and earth...

### Poetry Shortlist

*Οχονοργία* by Eleni Kefala  
*Οχονοργία*, by Sotiris P. Varvares (Gemister publications)  
*Αργόπολη* (Beloved), by Maria Savva (Theodouli Publications)  
*Σιγούλη Θαυμαστής* (Silent Passmeka), by Stephanos Stavrou (Parafolis Publications)

*Δρόμος Μεταξύ Ουρανού & Γης* (Road between Heaven and Earth), by George Christodoulidis (Parafolis Publications)

## Novel

The Judging Committee decided by majority that the State Prize for a Novel published in 2013 would be awarded to Andreas Karayann for his work *Στοίχεια Ιστορίας* (Dark Stories) by Ettos Booksophy Publications



Andreas Karayann's novel *Στοίχεια Ιστορίας* belongs in the tradition of fable-novels (Bildungsromane), a genre which is rare in the Greek language. In *Στοίχεια Ιστορίας* the protagonist, an imaginary person with auto-biographical elements which we have met in other books by Andreas Karayann, is a sensitive and idiosyncratic hero who is seeking the truth of art and life itself by travelling. His travels take him to Berlin after the wall has come down, to post-1974 Athens and to post-socialist Macedonia. In these wanderings, the demanding demand for authenticity in art, friendship and love dictates his steps. Through the confessional character of the narrative, the author constructs his own theory of the comic, casting the erotic union of cool and hot, beyond social conventions and guilt, to a great god. The novel, deeply philosophical and political, opposes the mechanisms of power which attempt to control erotic desire and sexuality and tries to demolish social stereotypes in order to promote respect for diversity.

### Novel Shortlist

*Στοίχεια Ιστορίας*, by Andreas Karayann  
*Μέλι για τη Λέσχη* (Honey for the Lady), by Vassilis Assimakopoulos (Pireneios) (Alexandros Publications)  
*Οργή Ψύχα* (Without a Compass), by Andreas Kefalas

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**Amarante Dynamics (Incorporeal Forces/Angels)** was founded in Paris by Machi Dimitriadou-Lindahl and its work has been presented in Sweden, Greece and France. Since 2004, the company resides and operates in Cyprus. Based on contemporary dance techniques and martial arts, Amarante Dynamics explores the periphery of the body, the breathing, the inner energy and presence. 2006, Unheard Voices, Alter-Pan-Athen, THOC, Compagnie Discovetes, Places Foundation – The Power House, Angel, (collaboration with Achim Wieland) Castellana; 2007, Dancer Land, Palio Theatre, Nicosa & Brake Theatre, Limassol; 2009, Sombody the shape of absence, No-Body Project, Nicosa; 2010, The stained shirt, 10<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Dance Platform, The shape of absence, Palio Theatre, Michael Cacoyannis Foundation, The Thread of time, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic - Eleftheria Studios; 2011, Kerossema, 11<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Dance Platform, Palio & ETHAL, Waterloo, Palio Theatre, University of Nicosia; 2012, Vista, 12<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Dance Platform, The song of the Earth, Terpsichore programme - Sainio Theatre, Liquid Copper, Aterta Arts Centre - Sweden, Coffee spouts of Time, 14<sup>th</sup> body festival; 2013, Ephemerid, 13<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Dance Platform, Saured Body, Terpsichore - Pallathra & Teatro Ea, Karp rockin, (de)direction: Sonja Phatak, Nea Karia Summer Dance Festival, 2014, Wonderful World, 14<sup>th</sup> Platform, A Lost moment, Nea Karia Summer Dance Festival, Echo, Dance House Nicosia. The company is preparing its new work,

entitled Azogone the choice, for June 2015 within the framework of the Terpsichore programme. For more information: Lindahl@cytanet.com.cy

#### **Merkle's dress with Hamilton Monteiro (15')**

Choreographer: Hamilton Monteiro

Performer: Fotsi Nikolaou

Dramaturgy: Petros Periklis

Light: Panagiotis Manousis

Music: Vivaldi - Spem in alpina

Merkle was a woman or a man who was a controversial person. The solo is a "comment" on the previous respectability and modesty of dressed societies.

Hamilton Monteiro was born in Cape Verde, Africa. He graduated from the State School of Dance in 1996 and has worked with various dance companies in Greece, such as Gus Giannou, Edafos Dance Company and others. In 2001, after having received a scholarship from the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation, he left for New York where he danced and worked for two years with artists such as Bill T. Jones and Dancers, Terry Giachetti Company, Bill T. Jones, Colleen Thomas, Barbara Gottsch, Jeremy Nelson and others. On his return, he worked in the choreographic teams of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Athens Olympic Games in 2004. From 2004 to date, he has worked with "Ergon adiastos" - Notas Archa, amphiyo, Jerry Argiroiou, neit Foti Nikolaou, Duetus Group, Elder Lila

Zafiropoulos, Alexandra Wassall (Düsseldorf), the Hellenic Dance company (State School of Dance ), "Spring" Hofnisi Schule and Action dance company. He co-founded "17" dance group and works as its choreographer until 2008. He has already presented his work at the "Small dance festival - Hydra", the Athens video dance project, the Neoi Kosmos Theatre in Athens, the Garage Performing Arts Center in Corfu, the Rabbit Hole Theatre in Metsovo/grevena, in DIPETHE (Dance and Dance days Chania). He currently resides in Cyprus, where he works as a dance teacher at the University of Nicosia. In June 2013, he presented his own independent production entitled Inflour at the Old Vinegar Factory (Palio Xyndakio) in Limassol, at the Dance Waves Festival in Cyprus. In January 2014, he presented the performance 9 in a row, a duet for the 5<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Dance Platform and in January 2015, he choreographed two plays for children, for ETHAL.

For more information: monteirohamilton@hotmail.com

#### **www with Elena Antoniou (30')**

Choreography / Performance: Elena Antoniou

Art Director: Polya Periklis

Music: Stavros Giaparitis

Lighting Designer: Alexander Jovanovic

www she stopped  
going to school  
all eyes  
all ears  
high and low  
for another  
another like herself  
another creature like herself

Frogs Society (1980) Samuel Beckett

Elena Antoniou graduated with distinction from the Greek National School of Dance and the London Contemporary Dance School. "The place", as a member of the Edge dance company. A scholarship recipient of the Kosta Pratikia Foundation in Athens, Greece and the Danseweb Scholarship Programme at Impulstanz, Vienna, she received the Choreography Award for the performance *Dorothy's audience* (THOC) at the Cyprus Theatre Awards and was nominated for the same award



*Big laugh for ever*. Photo by Archan Rajpal

for the fantastical performance *Sokrates* (Sokratis tripi). She collaborated with the artist Polya Periklis in the following performances: *You is what you get* (2008), *Nekaveas* (2010), *47 in it* (2011), *42Neckless* (2011), *The Meeting* (2012), *Qing and Country* (2013), *First Arch* (2014) and *They came* (2014). *First Arch* was presented at the Young Cyprus Choreographers' Platform at the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation in Athens and the International Festival LUCKY TRAMMER "THE WALL" in Berlin.

For more information: elenaantoniou.com | elena@elenaantoniou.com

#### **Big laugh forever with Vicki Kalla (30')**

Choreographer: Vicki Kalla in collaboration with the dancer Tsvi Greenberg

Performer: Vicki Kalla, Tsvi Greenberg

Lighting: Aleksander Jovanovic

"I would like to present a piece that deals with the love in the singularity and the complexity of this word. Big laugh for ever dissociation from the world of cartoons and takes place outside in a park, symbolizing the deepest inner world of ourselves. Can Love release us from our insecurities, from our

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*Island* - Photo by Archan Rajpal

#### **For your entertainment only... with Zoe Georgalis (10')**

Choreographer - Performer: Zoe Georgalis  
Performer: Konstantina Saliotis  
Performer: Spyridiki Delapou  
Musician: William Scott  
Costume designer: Gia Alphes  
Voice over: Ivana Radenovic  
Music by: William Scott, Steve Reich, Jelly Roll Morton and The Red Hot Peppers

For your entertainment only deals with the image of the performer and his constant effort to endure the ever-changing, ever-evolving demands of the world of entertainment. The above choreographic trio satisfies the performer's desire and need to succeed and be accepted, whilst studying the relationships that emerge between the audience, the dancer and the choreographer. Three people compete on stage to gain the audience's approval and attention, creating bitter-sweet sensations and interactions.

Zoe Georgalis graduated in 2011 from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (BA in Dance Theatre). There, she collaborated with

acclaimed artists and researchers such as Gill Clarke, Valérie Preston-Dunlop and Rosemary Butcher. Later on, whilst completing her postgraduate studies (MA in Dance Performance), Zoe became a member of the Transition Dance Company. During 2013, Zoe worked with various choreographers in London, including awarded artist Tsvi Shagal. In 2014, she collaborated with Cyprus artists such as Elena Christou and Marina Poyiadjis. Zoe's choreographic works Hot Pot, Foot Music and Potem, have been presented in various festivals such as the Loop Festival in Nicosia, the Lepiduo Festival in Finland and the Friday League Festival in London.

For more information: www.zoegeorgalis.com | zoe\_georgalis@gmail.com

#### **Island with Fotsi Nikolaou (20')**

Choreographer: Fotsi Nikolaou  
Dramaturgy: Thessalos Georgiou

Music design: Martin Foka

Set design and Costume: Thessalos Georgiou and Fotsi Nikolaou

Sound design: Charitos Kyriacoulis

Light design: Panagiota Manousi

Photographer: Pavlos Periklis

Performers: Kilia Georgiou, Evi Karman, Hamilton Montero, Maria Nikolaou, Fotsi Nikolaou

Island the parts of a country remote from the sea or frontier, the land that is situated in the interior of a country, within. A journey within...

Fotsi Nikolaou was born in Famagusta, Cyprus. He graduated with distinction from the State School of Dance Athens. He continued his studies in New York after having received a scholarship from Perivolas Foundation. He is the founder, artistic director and choreographer of X-ai Dancetheatre. He choreographed the following productions for the company: unswelling, A room to grow, I am and I am not, Whirlhouse, Lamento, Spiegel Im Spiegel, Waltz, Amen, The Ninth Hour, Not Yet, Love Shifts. He choreographed and co-directed with Thessalos Georgiou the dance and theatrical performance A little more, for the Cyprus Theatre Organisation. He was the official choreographer for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Athens 2004. As a

choreographer he has collaborated with acclaimed theatre directors and theatre companies such as the Makrone Opera, the Greek National Opera and Ballet, the Greek National Theatre, the Cyprus Theatre Organisation, Paswan, Drama, Demtro, Michael Marmaras, Yannis Kaldis, Hanna Sait, Stephen Langridge, Yorgos Arvanitis, Bassi Moustak, Stephanos Kotsikos, Avgi Tambouki and others. As a dancer, he collaborated with numerous dance companies and organisations in Greece, Cyprus and New York, such as Edafos Dancetheatre, Odissos Dancetheatre, Nefarma Dance Works, Echo Arts, Adira, Amarante Dynamics, Ad Lib, Omada Peris, the Athens Concert Hall and others.

For more information: zidher@zidher.com

#### **Gate with Amarante Dynamics dance company and Machi Dimitriadou-Lindahl (20')**

Concept/choreographic direction/ostomach Machi Dimitriadou-Lindahl

Music: Dimitris Savva To the God, Mia Kent

Open recording session

Interpretation/creation: Lazaros Constantiou, Alena Nicolaou, Maria Poyiadjis, Fouli Stylianou, Panagiota Manousi

Gate has a symbolic meaning that marks the passage from one state of consciousness to another, a path which transforms us and brings us a little closer to our essence, to a more conscious, harmonious and serene state of being.



*Gate* - Photo by Archan Rajpal

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**Swallow with Chorobeaia Onada Pende and Rouda Klevenoulu (20')**

Choreography Rouda Klevenoulu in collaboration with the dancers

Dancer: Anna Merkoulida, Milena Ugren Kudra

Dramaturgy Chloé Melidou

Sound editing C.C. Soundstage Studios

Costumes Ann Lassere

Light design Panagiotis Manousis

"Movement is the flexure of the body, stillness, of the mind." — Marty Rubin

The cliff is rising ... The landscape is falling, Falling upwards ... We had one life only but it was snatched by your fear of being hurt ... I am still, stillness is me. Only the cliff is rising Upwards. To the sky? — Petros Matis, *In Doubts, Our Own Anxieties*, page 95, Editions Kateraktis, Athens 2010.

Chorobeaia Onada Pende was founded in



Swallow - Photo by Aris Antonis



Lighter

1999. In its Fifteen years since its foundation it has presented 30 projects, with participations in the Contemporary Dance Platform, the Summer Dance Festival, the European Dance Festival and independent productions. Some of the projects have been presented in London and Athens. Together with other groups, Chorobeaia Onada Pende actively participates in coordinated actions, aiming at the establishment of institutions that promote and develop the art of dance in Cyprus. Chorobeaia Onada Pende is one of the founding members of the Dance House Lemmari (2007) and of the New Movement of Dance Companies, Dancers and Choreographers of Cyprus (2004). Since the foundation of the group, its main artists and choreographers have been Rouda Klevenoulu and Chloé Melidou.

For more information: chloemelidou@gmail.com

**Lighter with Noema Dance Works and Alexandra Wiesenthal (33')**

Concept / Choreography / Creation: Alexandra Wiesenthal

Performer: Harry Kouhos, Fotis Nikolaou, Alexandra Wiesenthal

Sound HAUBUCHKA

Artistic collaborator: Marianna Christofides

Light design: Alexander Jotovic, Alexandra Wiesenthal

Support: Yorgos Hadjigeorgis

Artistic collaborator/photo: Marianna Christofides

Lighter A minimalist Science-Fiction with humans, plants, objects and feelings. The choreography and dance are located in the relation between our protagonists, creating an alternate reality based on repetition, flux and affects. "Lighter" questions the relationship between man and the environment, ecology and disease, archaeology and future utopia, the stable and unstable. This work is part of a choreographic study that will lead to a full evening performance to premiere in Tandemhaus NW, Düsseldorf/Germany, in the fall 2015.

Alexandra Wiesenthal, born in England (1979) and raised in Cyprus, is a graduate of Arte2 Arnhem (The Netherlands), where she received her master's degree in Choreography. She has received numerous choreographic awards both

in Cyprus and Germany, including the 2013 Most Promising Artist award from the City of Düsseldorf. Alexandra's choreographic work has been selected and supported by networks such as Aeroseas, Mostra dance, IDEE - Initiatives in Dance through Europe, Exchange and Chan-Artworks. In 2012, Alexandra was a finalist for the Reiley Mentor and Protégé Award. She presented her choreographic works in Europe, Canada, Brazil, Korea and China. Between 2014-2016, Alexandra Wiesenthal was a Factory Artist at the Tanzhaus NRW in Düsseldorf, Germany. For more information: www.noemadanceworks.com | alexandra.wiesenthal@gmail.com

*In the Silence of... with Konstantina Stalikata (00')*

Choreographer Konstantina Stalikata

Dancers Konstantina Stalikata, Typhaine Delap

Visual Artist: Ben Bonfai

Costume Design: Ben Bonfai

Music supervisor: Chris Katsar

Musician: Ima Vaiditate

Music: Traditional Cypriot Lalioty

Special Thanks to Dominique Varned for her artistic contribution in this project. Special thanks to Ben Bonfai, Ima Vaiditate, Typhaine Delap, Dominique Varned for their substantial contribution towards the project, to my family for their constant and unconditional support.

A mother's body: prison or home? A female duet that explores the emotional bond between mother and daughter, their need to identify with each other, the complexity and endurance of this relationship.

Konstantina Stalikata grew up in Limassol where she took dance lessons at Fanis Hadjigeorgiou Dance Studio. In 2008, she moved to London where she studied Professional Dance and Performance at the Central School of Ballet. Upon her graduation, she continued her postgraduate studies in contemporary dance at the London Contemporary Dance School, from which she graduated in 2012. She is currently working as a freelance choreographer, contemporary dancer and dance teacher. So far, her choreographic work has been presented in platforms in the



*In the Silence of... - Photo by Aris Antonis*

United Kingdom, such as Resolution (The Place Theatre), Kalathokopis, Museum of Miss Dancewear 2 (Kirk Mint), Surrey Dance Collective (Clare Theatre), The Study League, the Europa for Dance Project (Cochrane Theatre) and festivals such as the Surrey Dance Festival 2014 and City of London 2011. Together with Luisa Schwager, they co-produced the artistic platform "Kaleidoskop".

For more information: konstantina.stalikata@gmail.com

*I will shank you down with Transfiguration and Aleks Nekrasov (10')*

Choreography - concept: Aleks Nekrasov

Dancers: Aleks Nekrasov, Rossana Pantis

Music: Dimitris Spyros

Costumes - Light installation: Raina Angeli

Photography: Constantinos Parayides

"What is light? Seeing with a feather eye into the darkness". (Anatoli N. Kuznetsov) We all have a bright and a dark side. It is a part of our dual



MAN-OEUVRÈS - Photo by Aris Antonis

Start! Are we all desperately looking for someone to accept us just the way we are? Do we live in a society where we want to be loved by everyone and spend so much time hiding our imperfections behind a mask that covers ourselves? This dance theatre duet attempts to uncover these masks. Both dancers explore personal, intimate moments and needs. Vicky Kotsa

Vicky Kotsa started her studies at the age of 16, with a scholarship in the professional school of dance "Espace Danse" in Montpellier (France). She graduated with the state diploma of France "EAT" (Examen D' Attitude Technique) as a professional dancer in 2010. In 2011, she continued her studies at the Higher School of Dance in Greece. She joined the Thessalian Ballet under the direction of Gesh Miller (2008-2011). In 2010, she was among the 15 finalists of the National Competition "Premios Roma" in Rome and in 2011, she was the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize at the "Chausson d'Or" competition.

In Cyprus, her first collaboration was in 2009 with Amforidou Chorobeaia.

and in 2010, she joined the company created for the events of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic

of Cyprus. Since 2011, she collaborates with Amforidou Chorobeaia, Antonia Dynamics and the Dance Cyprus.

For more information: vickykotsa@gmail.com

**MAN-OEUVRÈS with Harry Kouhos (20')**

Created by Harry Kouhos

Dramaturgy: Phyllis Michell

Choreography assistant: Misa Lampropoulou

Music, sound design: Christos Kyriacou, Henry Perrot

Video-art: Konstantinos Kepas

Costumes, styling: Alexander Cas

Dance: Costis Chrysafidis, Michael Kriempelis,

Nikolaos Demopoulis, Periklis Stasinis, Ryan

Lange

Supported by: Dance House Lefkara, Dance Gate Lefkara, No Body Festival, Dance Cultural Centre (DANCCE)

MAN and their OEUVRÈS. The past of primal matter meets a future that seeks its form of expression.

The performance draws inspiration from the

week ARCHETYPA, which is to be premiered in June 2015 in Cyprus as part of the Emprecher Programme.

Harry Kouhos is a dancer, choreographer and dancer artist from Cyprus, based in Athens. He has performed for numerous dance companies and during the last years he has been collaborating with Alexandra Wiesenthal. At the age of 22, he began creating his own choreographic and video-dance work, which has been presented since then across Europe. His work has been invited by several festivals in Greece, Cyprus, Belgium, Sweden, England, Portugal and Germany. In his creation, he makes use of different media and art forms - both visual and performing - while he is particularly interested in the interaction between the latest techniques and primal materials, including the human body. Thus, he focuses on the materialisation of choreographic ideas along with the embodiment of abstract forms in order to address the spectator's own fine perception and associative brain functions.

For more information: www.harrykouhos.com | harrykouhos@hotmail.com

**Within and Between with Julia Brendle and Maria Konstantinou (10')**

Concept/Idea: Julia Brendle, Maria Konstantinou with Maria Konstantinou

Performers: Julia Brendle, Maria Konstantinou

Video / camera: Sotiris Phaskas, Pavlos Vriondes

Video editing: Sotiris Phaskas

Sound design: Paras Bassas

Light design: Alexander Jotovic

"The subject creates (...) to be identified. It is that class of events which occurs during co-presence and by virtue of co-presence. The ultimate behavioral resources are the glances, gestures, posturing, and verbal statements that people continuously feed into the situation, whether intended or not. (...) The normative order can be uncovered peeling within and between these acts; that is, the behavioral order found in all people places, whether public, semi-public, or private, and whether under the auspices of an organized social occasion or the plainer constraints



*Within and Between - Photo by Aris Antonis*

**Creating music, enjoying the melody and impromptu performances!**

The Nicosia leg of the interactive installation was co-organized by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture and Aventgarde Cultural Foundation.

At the opening ceremony, Minister of Education and Culture Costa Koutsis said the Cultural Services had endorsed the Aventgarde Cultural Foundation's initiative to host this original installation with a keen interest. "It significantly contributes to the creation of opportunities to cultivate, develop and promote, not just music but all the other forms of artistic creation too," said the Minister.

"*Play me, I'm yours*" is the biggest audio-visual interactive installation that has ever been organized in Cyprus, as it unites the arts of music and visual, while simultaneously engaging the entire audience of Nicosia and beyond. For ten days, starting tomorrow, the love of Nicosia will heat the ten pianos that we unveiled a while back and which distinguished Cypriot artists very willingly painted," said Koutsis at the October opening. "By prompting the public to *Play me, I'm yours*, the pianos will be at the disposal of anyone who wishes to create music, to enjoy their melody and share impromptu performances and unique artistic experiences with their friends and passers-by," he added.



#### In Nicosia

1. Makarios III Hospital Child Psychiatric Department – piano painted by artist Petros Papapetrou
2. Paediatric Oncology Unit at the Makarios Hospital – piano painted by Pavlos Anasta
3. Shelter for the Victims of Domestic Violence – piano painted by Pavlos Anasta
4. "Aga Sopi" Therapeutic Community – piano painted by Athanasios Michalidis (Papazou)



#### In Limassol

5. Cyprus Red Cross Society Children Therapy Centre "Stella Soutis" – piano painted by Andreas Ladermann
6. Child Development Centre "To Alma" at Theotokos Foundation – piano painted by Christos Michlis

#### In Larnaca

7. Children's House of Larnaca

#### In Paphos

8. Paphos Children's Home – piano painted by Androu Chambelides

#### In Famagusta

9. "Apostolos Pantos" Centre for people with special needs in Larnaca – piano painted by Nikos Kououlis
10. Gymnasium of Kykkasmeno – piano painted by Harris Tsangaris, Studios Stylianou and Elena Panayiotou

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### Play me, I'm yours: Nicosia

Nicosia became the 45th city across the globe to become capital with pianos personalized and decorated by local artists last autumn, all for the public to enjoy, as part of the *Play me, I'm yours* interactive installation.

Touring internationally since 2001, *Play Me, I'm Yours* is an artwork by British artist Luke Jerram. Reaching over six million people worldwide – more than 1,300 pianos have already been installed in 45 cities across the globe, from New York to London, bearing the single instruction *Play Me, I'm Yours*.

Located in public parks, bus shelters and train stations, markets and even in homes the pianos are available for any member of the public to play and enjoy. Who plays them and how long they remain on the streets is up to each community. By creating a place of exchange, *Play Me, I'm Yours* invites the public to engage with, activate and take ownership of their urban environment.

#### Communicating with one another

The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture together with the Aventgarde Cultural Foundation, presented *Play Me, I'm Yours: Nicosia* from 17 to 26 October 2014. Ten street pianos decorated by renowned local artists were placed in parks, squares and other public spaces in Nicosia, while at the end of the project the pianos were donated to local charities and community groups. Throughout the installation, the public could use a special website to upload and share their film, photo and stories of their interaction with the piano. Each city's website contains a timeline of the progress of the project, providing a means for the public to communicate with one another on a local level, but also within an international arena, with people from all over the world. The website help to connect the different communities, providing maps of each city's piano locations and promoting special events. All content is created and uploaded by the public.



#### Locations & Artists

- (By alphabetical order of the artist)
- Pavlos Anasta – Savvou Avenue
  - Deros Heracleous – Mall of Engomi
  - Nikos Kououlis – Kyrenia Avenue
  - Andreas Ladermann – A.O. Lermontis Gallery
  - Athanasios Michalidis (Papazou) – Ledra Street checkpoint
  - Elena Michailidou – Fassouri Square
  - Christos Michlis – Acropolis Park
  - PIN Cartoons (Petros Papapetrou) – Mall of Cyprus
  - Harris Tsangaris [with Elena Panayiotou and Studios Stylianou] – Strovolos Municipality Cultural Centre
  - Andreas Chambelides – Kykkasmeno Piano Gallery (Nikis Avenue)

The Cyprus installation is hosted on the international website of the artwork ([www.playmeiyours.com](http://www.playmeiyours.com)) and the public may post and share film, photos and stories about the pianos. Whilst documenting each piano's journey, this connected the piano and their community across the city and acted as a legacy for the artwork. Alternatively, one may visit the Cyprus website at [www.cyplaymeiyours.com](http://www.cyplaymeiyours.com) or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cyplaymeiyours/piano-gallery](http://www.facebook.com/cyplaymeiyours/piano-gallery)

#### A final home for the pianos

The interactive installation wrapped on 26 October 2014. Following in the steps of big cities like Barcelona, London, Sydney, New York, Paris, Monaco and Los Angeles, this uniquely successful cultural phenomenon reached the shores of Cyprus and its capital city Nicosia. The Cypriot pianos joined thousands of others across the globe to create possibly the biggest ever international interactive installation.

The outcome exceeded all expectations. It is estimated that some 250,000 people engaged in the installation, sending hundreds of messages and thousands of photos and video clips to the websites and social media pages. What's more, no acts of vandalism were reported, showing the people's respect towards the beautiful creations.

Starting true to their commitment to donate the ten pianos to places that could do with some entertainment, the organizers selected a number of homes and shelters that were selected following careful consideration. The brand new Perini UP-122 pianos, sent in especially for the cause, ended up in children's homes, hospitals and rehabilitation centres, among others.

Once the installation wrapped, the President of Aventgarde Cultural Centre and the officer in charge of the installation at the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture stated a number of places in person and finally concluded on the ten locations that would house the pianos.

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Dilated Intentions - Photo by Andreas Kofler

systems. Both of these actions are nourished by our thoughts, by our experiences and our memories. In the background of every challenge, a hidden dark egg exists. It is waiting to throw us back into the abyss from which we came... It enjoys whispering hurtful thoughts, or at least what we perceive as hurtful. Get to know it; it is the only way to beat it. Look at it, love it, because you will live with it forever. Only then will you stay at darkness with a fearless eye...

Transfigurations in the transformation in Latin (transfigura). The name of the group is based on the idea that anything that moves, can change and be transformed. The group was founded in 2007 by dancer Nicolas Aleisa aiming at the exploration of personal movement and language. Projects presented: 2007 Afrodita 2010 *In the肉souls* (Contemporary Dance Platform Cyprus), 2011 *Journal Perv/Dance Waves Festival*, 2013 *Glimmer of the mind* (for the International Dance Day organized by the Cyprus Centre of International Theatre Institute), 2014 *He alone*, with her (for the International Dance Day, organized by the Cyprus Centre of International Theatre Institute)

For more information: aleisa@outlook.gr.cy

#### Dilated Intentions with Alexander Michael (IS\*)

Choreographer: Alexander Michael  
Dancers: John Brendle, Rania Olympia, Dara Milivojevic-Michael, Alena Perdikouli  
Lighting: Alexander Jausic  
Music: Tim Hecker (shoved & manipulated by Paras Bustam)

The artist, who aims to create a work that affects society, must embark on a creative process during which he, as an artist, being open to infinite choices, inevitably discovers new intentions during this process, thus altering the preconceived outcome of the work, resulting in a Dilated Intention. The confines of the funding application process influenced the framework of this work's intention.

Alexander Michael is a Lecturer in the Dance Department of the University of Nicosia. He holds an MSc in Dance Science from the University of Wolverhampton. In 1994, he began his formal dance training at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. Later on, he continued his dance training at the acclaimed Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance with a full scholarship. He has had an extensive performing career in Canada

(David Earle, Daryl Hodson, and Patricia Beatty), the US (Martha Graham Ensemble as a principal dancer) and Cyprus.

For more information: dancemakers@gmail.com

#### Happiness with Milena Ugnat-Koščas (IS\*)

Choreographer/dancer: Milena Ugnat-Koščas  
Music: George Koščas  
Costume: Arie Lassaeur  
Light design: Aleksandar Jotovac

According to Aristotle, Happiness is the ultimate end and purpose of human existence. Happiness is not pleasure, nor is it virtue. It is the exercise of virtue. Happiness cannot be achieved until the end of one's life. Hence it is a goal and not a temporary state.

It reveals the richness of creativity, imagination and determination of the choreographer, as well as the hard work and skills of the dancers all of which enable Cyprus Dance to succeed and prosper. The exhibition opens, at the same time, a window of opportunity for both creators and dancers to overcome linguistic and geographical boundaries and become ambassadors in the international Cultural scene.

Cyprus Contemporary Dance Platform is hosted and co-organized by the Raftis Theatre in Larnaca. The first event was organized in March



Happiness - Photo by Andreas Kofler

1001 under the name "Dance Encounters", and included the participation of four groups. The first five Platforms were competitive with a 1<sup>st</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, as well as special recommendations. In 2007, an effort to enrich the Platform was initiated with the organization of parallel events such as a photo exhibition and projections of dance performances. The effort to further develop the Platform continued in 2008 and for the first time the event "Dance Throughout the Year" was presented at Dance House Larnaca, which started to actively participate in the organization of the Platform. Starting with the 10<sup>th</sup> Contemporary Dance Platform in 2010, three groups which excelled at the Dance Platform were selected to represent Cyprus at the 15<sup>th</sup> European Dance Festival which took place in Lissabon and Nicosia in June of the same year.

#### About the Cyprus Contemporary Dance Platform

Dancer/choreographer Milena Ugnat-Koščas and musician George Koščas have been collaborating for the last 10 years. They both graduated from the Codarts Academy in Rotterdam, Netherlands. They presented their work in different venues in Cyprus and abroad, in Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Germany, France, Serbia. In 2007, the piece *White Walking* was awarded at the New Europe Festival in Prague, Czech Republic. In 2012, their choreography *House of Heaven II* was nominated at the International Choreographic Competition in Hanover and N-Ballet was selected in Ludwigshafen, Germany. *Makro* has been selected as one of the Awardees priority works for 2015.

For more information: www.ugnatkoščas.com | koščas@cytanet.com.cy

The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture had the initiative to introduce and establish "DancePlatform - Dance Encounters" as an institution in 2001. The Platform has contributed enormously to the advancement of dance in Cyprus by exposing works by artists and different dance groups in the field of contemporary dance.

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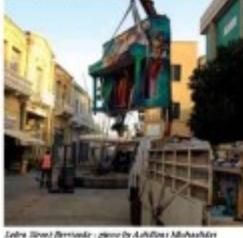
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Events Avenue - piano by Pierre Boulez - photo uploaded by Petros Kyriacos



A G. Steinbach Gallery - piano by Andreas Kofler



Lecha Street (Barcelone) - piano by Andonis Michalakidis - photo uploaded by Petros Kyriacos



Pavement Square - piano by Emanuele Mazzatorta

#### Engage, activate and claim ownership

Disrupting peoples' negotiation of their city, Street Pianos are designed to provoke people into engaging, activating and claiming ownership of their urban landscape. Like a musical equivalent of Facebook, Street Pianos, together with this website, provide an interconnected resource for the public to express themselves.

The pianos have also enriched many hidden musicians out of the woodwork. It has become apparent that there are thousands of pianists out there who don't have regular access to a piano. *Play Me, I'm Yours* provides access to this wonderful musical instrument and gives

individuals the opportunity to share their creativity by performing in public.

In cities like London, hundreds of perfectly good, working, second-hand pianos get thrown away each year. *Play Me, I'm Yours* transports dozens of these pianos annually, to countries where the instrument is rare and more valued, for the public to enjoy. After being presented as part of a *Play Me, I'm Yours* installation many of the pianos are donated to schools and community groups within the local area.

The first city signed up for 2015 is Florence, South Carolina, which will be taking place in April. And a number of potential partners for 2015 and new cities will be announced in due course.



Acropolis Plaza - piano by Ondrej Matula



Mall of Cyprus - piano by Petros Kyriacos



Jr. American Cultural Center - piano by Michael Tsangaris - photo by Miltiades Kyriacos and George Kyriacos - photo by Miltiades Kyriacos



Zyntek Water Piano Gallery - piano by Andreas Christou

It is estimated that over 140,000 people played or listened to music from the piano. Since then *Play Me, I'm Yours* has reached an estimated six million people worldwide. Each new city the commissioners the artwork becomes part of this growing international legacy.

"The idea for *Play Me, I'm Yours* came from visiting my local boulodrome," said Luke Jerram, international artist and creator of *Play Me, I'm Yours*. "I saw the same people there each weekend and yet no one talked to one another. I suddenly realised that within a city there must be hundreds of these unsociable communities, regularly spending

time with one another in silence. Playing a piano into the space was my solution to this problem, acting as a catalyst for conversation and changing the dynamics of a space."

News of the project spread internationally and since then, the artwork has toured the world, acting as a high profile event for many organisations, including the Pan Am Games, 2010 European Capital of Culture in Pécs, LA Chamber Orchestra, San Jose Biennale, Sydney Festival, City of London Festival, Faculty of Music at University of Cambridge and Barcelona's Maria Canals International Music Competition.

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## Centre of Visual Arts and Research in Nicosia

The Centre of Visual Arts and Research which opened in Nicosia last September can be described as a real treasure trove of art and other artefacts about Cyprus.

Located within the walled city of Nicosia, the Centre is housed over the four floors of a renovated 1950s flourmill.

It offers everyone, local and foreign, the opportunity to relate to the island's history from an objective, though somewhat melancholic point of view.

The Centre of Visual Arts and Research is the home of the Costas and Kim Sevren Foundation and is very much the result of the devoted study and personal collection of the duo.

It is the realisation that the story of these



The Centre of Visual Arts and Research



objects is also the story of Cyprus that has made the collection available to the wider public and it is through being able to see the history of Cyprus through multiple aspects – architecture, landscape, religion, monuments and most significantly people – that the vision has, without a doubt, succeeded.

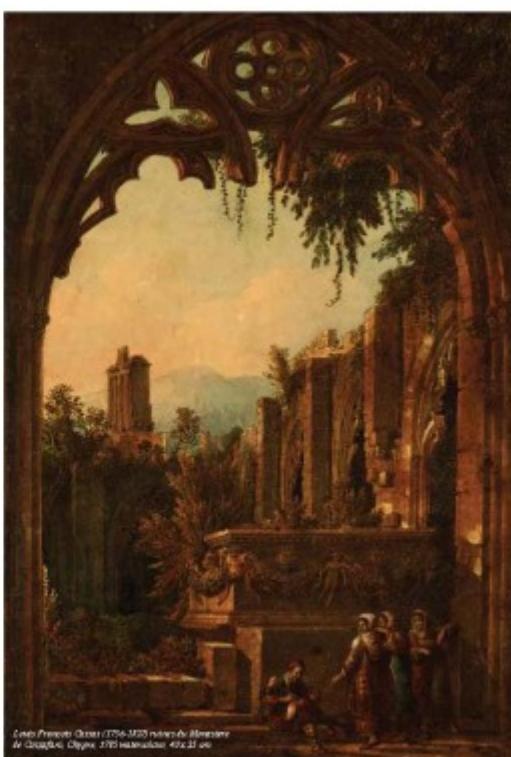
The guided tours are an intimate account of periods in time which tell a story of yesterday, and having these stories manifested through artworks allows one to read between the lines.

### The Collections

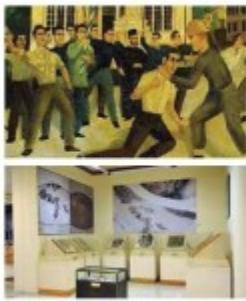
Through the Travelling Artists Collection with more than 1,000 artworks, the history of the island becomes apparent through paintings of prominent foreign artists such



David Bomberg (1890-1959) Quai de l'Horizon. Oil & Minton Majolica. Cyprus 1947



Louis Prangier (1796-1875) Interior of a Mosque at Gzira. Oil on canvas. 19th century. 49x23 cm



Artist



in battle. The various aspects of the struggle are depicted through small references, documents and photographic material. These include the air dropping of propaganda leaflets by the British, Turkish efforts for Cyprus' Turkification, the co-operation between Turkish Cypriots and the English and the reaction of EOKA.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Section showcases the national heroes who were detained at the Central Prison and various detention barracks set up by the British Government Army, through a series of handicrafts they created during their imprisonment, their personal items, photographs and notes. One exhibit is the high school leaving certificate of a pupil, who took her final exams in prison.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Section details the four-year EOKA

through the photographic archives of Felix Yanis. The 5<sup>th</sup> and final Section measures the outcome of the struggle and the return of Georgios Grivas Digenis to Greece, and makes small references to the problems faced by the newly-established Republic of Cyprus, the bombing of Tylosia in 1964 and the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

Meanwhile, the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation and Association of Cyprus Travel Agents organised a reception for the island's media on 28 January 2015, to present its Museum's enriched collections.

The exhibition lasts until 28 June 2015 and is open to the public Monday to Friday from 9am until 12.30 pm, and from 1.30pm until 4pm.

Besides the works belonging to the Byzantine Museum, Art Gallery and Library, exhibits were also provided by Archibishopric, National Strategic Museum, Society of Cyprus Studies, Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation and Historical Museum and Archive of the Municipality of Makrinitsa. Furthermore, the exhibition included artworks, documents and relics from seventeen private art collectors: Agis Philippou, Alex Aymarou, Anastasi Haroutoun, Andrew Anargyrou, Andros Eloudas, Andreas Nicolaides, Andreas Pitsilas, Elias Christoforou-Nicopoulou, Effymia Skafit-Georgakou, Mata Stavrou, Ambassador Christambelos Christopherou, Renos Kyriakides, Savvas Chrysanthou, Spyros Lazarou, General Laskos Avgoustides and Constantinos Hadjichristodou.

## 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the A. G. Leventis Gallery

On 25 March 2014, the A. G. Leventis Foundation presented the public and visitors to the island with the A. G. Leventis Gallery. Thus, the vision of Anastasis G. Leventis – to make the artworks he had collected throughout his life accessible and affordable to his compatriots – was made a reality, and at the same time, it provided the Cypriot people with a Museum that is unique in Cyprus' standards, a cultural contribution that narrates the story of European art and provides an insight into the world of the periods covered.

This March, the Gallery had a lot to celebrate on its very first anniversary. Throughout a year of ongoing and creative contribution to the community, culture and fine arts, the Gallery organised two temporary exhibitions, gave ten lectures focusing on the History of Art, provided dozens of tours and offered a variety of educational programmes for all ages. More than 30,000 people visited the Gallery, while the people's stand made a number of important collaborations with other museums and foundations in the works, in a bid to establish uninterrupted cultural "dialogues" with the art world of Europe.

Wishing to thank the Cypriot public for its support, the A. G. Leventis Gallery is celebrating its 1<sup>st</sup> birthday with a series of events for children and adults, which began on 25 March 2015 and will wrap on 18 May 2015, International Museum Day. These include special tours, theatrical performances, readings for children and adults, workshops, music shows and an exhibition dedicated to Anastasis G. Leventis and West Africa.

### Recognition Certificate

On 2 February 2015, the A. G. Leventis Gallery had yet another reason to celebrate, after being awarded a Recognition Certificate along with the Cyprus Theatre Museum.

Recognition Certificates are provided under the Recognition of Private Museums and Museums of Local Authorities (Procedure and Conditions) Law 56(I) of 2009.

The Certificates were handed over during a special ceremony at the Ministry of Education and Culture, by Minister Costas Kadi. They were received by former First Lady Photini Papadopoulou on behalf



The Cyprus Collection

## It was the 1<sup>st</sup> of April...

To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EOKA struggle to end British rule in Cyprus, the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation-Bysantine Museum and Art Gallery is hosting an exhibition of artworks, documentation and relics under the heading *It was the 1<sup>st</sup> of April...* – the date at which the 1955-59 EOKA struggle began.

The exhibition, which opened on 1 March 2015 and will last until 28 June 2015, is hosted on the Gallery's second floor, where the Ethnographic Collection is kept, presenting Cyprus' participation in the struggles of modern Hellenism from 1821 until 1974.

The exhibition aims to outline the most critical and decisive historical period for the Greeks of Cyprus which ultimately led to the island's liberation from the British, and draw lessons and parallels from the paintings, sculptures, engravings, photographs, books, newspapers,

documents and various relics depicting the EOKA struggle. These include the heroic soldiers' uniforms, equipment, prisoners' handicrafts and handmade flags.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Section provides a synopsis of the Cypriots' yearning for "Enosis" – to join Greece – as expressed through the October 1931 riots, the Cypriots' participation in World War II, the 1950 referendum and Greece's 1954 appeal to the United Nations UN for self-determination to be applied for the people of Cyprus, as was the case with other countries.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Section presents the two leaders of EOKA – National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (Ethniki Organosi Kyprion Agoniston) – Archbishop Makarios III and Colonel Georgios Grivas Digenis, Makarios' exile to the Seychelles, the self-sacrifice of Dimitsos Athienou and other EOKA fighters who died



View of the 'It was the 1st of April...' exhibition

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George Grivas Digenis

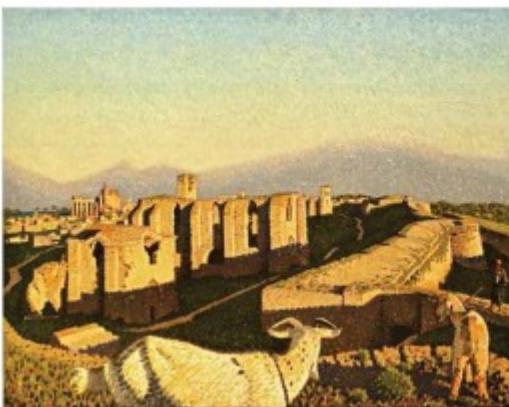


Archbishop Makarios III



Military operations

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Keith Anderson (1922-1992). Famagusta in 1952 (Oil on Board 46 x 37 cm)

as Cornelius Van Bruyn, Henry White, Keith Henderson and Gladys Poy to name a few, but also a small collection of Cypriot artists, such as Adonis Diamantou and Ismet Vehit Gunev, who created the Cyprus Flag.

These works on Cyprus depict sociological and historical aspects of the island and its people. As the Centre asserts, visitors can understand and appreciate the rapport of various communities of the island through the scenes of everyday life, street scenes and peopled interiors.

Representations of monuments, villages and landscapes enable the viewer to follow the architectural development of towns and villages while at the same time, changes in the countryside and the transition from the traditional to the modern also become apparent. The Costumes Collection comprises 500 pieces of costumes, clothes, shoes, hats, bed-linen,

curtains and embroidery, again spanning three centuries, and concentrates on the influences of the East and West on the development of local Cypriot dress.

The many original costumes displayed in representations and in specially adapted drawers range from clothing worn by High Commissioners and Consuls, from pastas to wedding dresses, furs and christening robes.

The Colonial Collection includes Government House (1878-1960) memorabilia such as authentic guest books, dinner services and furniture, with smaller items such as cigarette boxes, travel labels, souvenirs and maps, which give a common representation of the Cyprus realm at the time.

The Research Collection includes more than 5,000 books on art and travel diaries and travelogues to Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and the

Levant. Rare and old books and a large number of modern books, particularly reference books, are made available to scholars and researchers. Archival material on many historical subjects is also made available through an online archive with newspapers (1878-1960), manuscripts and information on artists as well as photographic and film clips from 1878-1960.

Smaller collections which are displayed on the walls of corridors leading to the various floors include posters of Cyprus, political cartoons, botanical illustrations and an important collection of paintings of the last queen of Cyprus, Catherine of Aragon.

### At the old Inn

Just like the collection, the history of the building that houses the Centre follows a significant part of the island's recent history.

Known back in the day as the Ermos Street Inn, it was converted into a Flavmill in the 1950s,

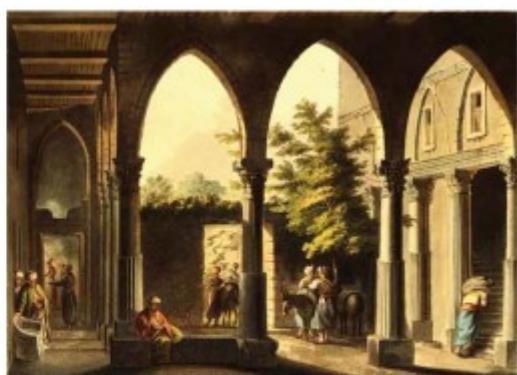
remaining in operation until the 1990s.

Architects Andreas and Zoe Lordos are responsible for turning the building into a research and exhibition centre, with the financial support of the Cosmas and Rita Sevris Foundation, as well as the USAID and EEA Grants Norway. Long before the Centre was renovated, the Foundation began touring Cyprus to become acquainted with its history, both in the southern and northern parts of the island.

The Centre will continue to offer new artistic events and is expected to host a number of periodical exhibitions by Cypriot as well as foreign artists, in addition to musical, cooking, dance and cinematic events, which the Centre's organisers say would be mostly bi-communal.

Centre of Visual Arts and Research 285 Brown Street, 1077 Nicosia. Tel: 22 700 999. Web: [www.euroc.org/cvr](http://www.euroc.org/cvr)

Opening hours Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 4.30pm. The Centre is closed on Sundays.



Luigi Mayer (1735-1800). Antique Portuguese architecture, Rhodes (engraving 36x 22 cm)

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## Nativity Stories

5 December 2014 - 2 March 2015

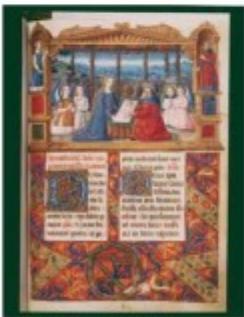
The A.G. Leventis Gallery presented its first ever international temporary exhibition *Nativity Stories*, co-curated by Myro Hatzaki (curator of the Paris Collection) and Lorraine Louisa Hadjigavriel (Director of the Gallery), from 5 December 2014 - 2 March 2015.

According to the Gallery's Education Officer, Katerina Stephanides, the exhibition looks not just at the Nativity, but also how the story has changed over time.

"How the history of art has shaped the relationship between text and image, images," she says, explaining that this is a technique she often uses with school groups, "our modern day idea of the Nativity scene – Mary sitting up, holding a naked baby Jesus and surrounded by the three Magi – is the culmination of a chronological game of Chinese Whispers..."

Painters through the ages were influenced, she suggests, not just by the artists who had gone before, but also the prevailing mood and dictates of the time. St Bridget's Revelation in the 1300s, for example, greatly shaped the succeeding iconography: "From a pure Virgin Mary and swaddled Jesus, we suddenly change to Mary venerating a naked baby. And in a similar manner, the Council of Trent ruled that, in the 1500s, the midwives should no longer be present – this, after all, was an immaculate conception, and anything 'inappropriate' should be removed."

In effect, then, the exhibition simply titled, for it is really all about storytelling, the story not just of the Nativity, but also of how perceptions of the best-loved scene have changed over time. Describing a roughly chronological expedition down the aisle, it is a journey from traditional



Order of St John - Photo: Mirella Bagetbohle



Order of St John - Photo: Mirella Bagetbohle



Byzantine depiction through western medieval art to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the aftermath of the Baroque period into Modernism. Comprising nearly 60 different works – most of which are en route from internationally renowned galleries and museums – the exhibition aims at bringing a new perspective to the relationship between holy texts and art, focusing on the juxtaposition

of images and words.

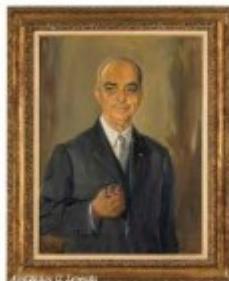
And what emerges is a Nativity that's not merely a single narrative, but an exciting and multifaceted story. From the 11<sup>th</sup> century came keepsake to great Cypriot artist Athanasios Dimaratis' oil on canvas *The Nativity of 1859*, this is an exhibition which surely transports the viewer. There is a

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The A.G. Leventis Gallery in Limassol  
Mr. Wamis Tomasic, Board of Directors Chairman of the Cyprus Theater Museum



Anastasios G. Leventis

Anastasios G. Leventis was born in Cyprus in December 1910, in the Cypriot mountain village of Lengkhou, the home of his mother Salome.

Anastasios' secondary education was at the Mitas School in Lengkhou, founded by an emigrant from the village who had made his fortune in Egypt and set up a school that specialised in more commercial subjects and foreign languages. At the end of the First World War the young Anastasios determined to improve his education and prospects, travelled to visit his older brother, George, who was already based in Egypt. From there he boarded a ship to Marseilles, where he first found work and then completed his commercial education at the 'Ecole Supérieure de Commerce' in Bourgogne.

He went on to found one of the biggest enterprises in West Africa in 1936, A.G. Leventis & Company Limited, and become a hugely successful businessman.

Business was by no means Anastasios G. Leventis' only interest. He also helped with many projects to improve life in the Cypriot villages connected to his family, supporting many students at courses overseas, and helping many in need.

These efforts were intensified in the face of the pain of turmoil that unfolded in Cyprus in the late 50's and 60's, and Anastasios G. Leventis acted

his newly independent homeland in a number of ways. President Makarios, with whom he had collaborated to found the man of people's home in Nicosia, made use of Anastasios' political expertise at several meetings of the United Nations General Assembly and, in 1964, appointed him Cyprus' first Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, in recognition of his support for education and the cultural heritage of Cyprus. The 1974 invasion of Cyprus imposed a particular burden on Anastasios G. Leventis. Not only was his own home village, Pera, occupied by the Turkish army, with the loss of the cultural centre and family church he himself had built, but he had to deal, at UNESCO, with the overwhelming problem of the invaders' destruction of Cypriot cultural heritage.

He gave what help he could to repatriate treasures

stolen and smuggled abroad, but above all, it was the needs of the injured and the refugees that he did his best to help alleviate. The great pressures of the time may have been to blame for his last serious illness at the end of 1976. Anastasios G. Leventis died in October 1978 having provided for the establishment of a Foundation to support educational, cultural, artistic and philanthropic causes in Cyprus, Greece and elsewhere.

The A. G. Leventis Foundation formally came into being in May 1979 and had begun to operate on a small scale by the end of that year. Over the following three years the scope and volume of its activities gradually increased, so that within forty years of its founder's death, the A. G. Leventis Foundation can claim a fifty-fold opening record of more than twenty five years.



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## The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra

The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra (CySO) provided classical music lovers with a wealth of repertoire to warm us up over the past chilly winter months.

Offering everything from a romantic set-up on Valentine's Day, to the popular children's musical Peter and the Wolf and the Magic Flute: Romeo and Juliet, our national orchestra certainly did not disappoint.

### Peter and the Wolf

The CySO brought Sergei Prokofiev's (1891-1953) much-loved musical tale *Peter and the Wolf* to life on 6 and 7 February, nestled by Cypriot star Petros Georgiades and conducted by Alkis Ballas, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the CySO.

Three family concerts took place at the Municipal Theatre in Larnaca and Strovolos Municipal Theatre in Nicosia, while the orchestra also presented the programme in four morning educational concerts in Nicosia and Paphos, which were attended by selected primary schools and kindergartens.

Rumour has it that the great Russian composer came up with the idea of 'a musical tale for children' following his two sons' many visits to performances at the Moscow Theatre for Children

in Moscow. Each of the characters in Prokofiev's tale is represented by a different musical instrument or instrumental group. Prokofiev himself wrote the text of the story. Peter enjoys the beauty of nature in the company of a duck, a cat and a bird, until a wolf appears. The CySO let the actual instruments tell the story in their own unique and subtle way.

Following the musical story, the Orchestra had a special surprise for its young friends. An extra performance entitled *The Magic Romeo and Juliet* was held on 6 and 7 February, nestled by Cypriot star Petros Georgiades and conducted by Alkis Ballas, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the CySO.

### The Magic of Love

The CySO helped couples celebrate their devotion on Valentine's Day with music and works inspired by love. With Manuel de Falla's passionate ballet suite *Lover*, the *Mysteries* as well as unforgettable arias and love duets from the operatic repertoire, the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, its conductor and artistic director Alkis Ballas, together with Cypriot baritone Kyriacos Paraskevas and Cypriot soprano Christy Mekhora, promised a romantic



musical evening filled with "The Magic of Love". Concerts were held in Nicosia, Larnaca and Paphos from 12 February to 14 February 2015.

### Bright Sounds and Reflective Sounds

(With the participation of members of the Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra)

The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra presented a concert series with the participation of members of the Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra, under the artistic direction of Alkis Ballas and soloist trumpeter Sokratis Anthias.

With his ballet *Farewell*, the Cypriot composer Savvas Savvas pays tribute to local hero Grigoris Afxentiou. The CySO presented three movements from the ballet, followed by the much-loved *Trumpet Concerto in A flat Major* by contemporary Armenian composer Alexander Arutunian. Deemed by critics and soloists alike as a brilliant and virtuosic masterpiece, the Concerto's unrestrained rhythmic energy and the diachronic colours of its melodic lines and elements of Armenian folk music certainly delighted music lovers.

The Bright Sounds and Reflective Sounds concert wrapped with Johannes Brahms' *Symphony No.2 in D major op. 73*, which is often compared to Beethoven's *Romantic* for its prevalent tranquility, joy, optimism and high spirits.

The concerts were presented at the Makarios III Theatre in Paphos on 26 March and Strovolos Municipal Theatre in Nicosia on 27 March.

### Musical Clock of Yesterday and Today

It is always especially enlightening to juxtapose classical music styles with their 20<sup>th</sup> century counterparts in a concert programme. The CySO "Musical Clock" first day was contemporary Cypriot composer Nicolas Tsarafiotis' *Serenade for Strings*. It then travelled back to the 1950s with Bohuslav Martinů's *Rhapsody Concerto* for viola, loved for its moving lyrical passages and intense climaxes. Finally, the CySO travelled into the 1900s with Franz Joseph Haydn's *Symphony No.101 in D Major "The Clock"*, which is pervaded by heartfelt joy and a characteristic "ticking" rhythm throughout its second movement.

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## Donation in memory of the late Pefkios Georgiades

On 2 March 2015, the Patients Welfare Council of Archbishop Makarios III Hospital in Nicosia was presented with a donation of €6,620, in the name of the late former Minister of Education and Culture, Pefkios Georgiades.

The Patients Welfare Council offers financial support to the families of sick children, whose conditions require lengthy and costly treatments.

The money was raised during the annual concert held in remembrance of the much-loved former minister, who died suddenly in 2007. The concert was held by the Musical Talent Development Program of the Ministry of Education and Culture, under the artistic direction of Professor Matheou Karolos, on 24 January 2015 at the Strovolos Municipal Theatre.

The cheque was handed over by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Efi Pagalaki, to Nicosia District Officer and Chairman of the Council Maria Paraskeva. She was accompanied by Matheou Karolos and the children's representative, Nikoletta Demosthenous.

The concert was under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades.

### Major achievements in Cyprus and abroad

Announcing the concert back in January, the Minister of Education and Culture, Costas Kotsiris paid tribute to the late Education Minister for being the man who inspired and created the Musical Talent Development Program. "This is why the annual concert presented by the same forty children that attend it, is dedicated to his memory," said the Minister.

Kotsiris praised the Program's children for their major achievements in Cyprus as well as abroad, receiving rave reviews and demonstrating great talent and skill.



The programme included works from the romantic period of classical music, by composers Niccolò Paganini, Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky, Franz Schubert and Pablo de Sarasate.

The audience was also transported to the Baroque era, with classic work by Antonio Vivaldi will also take us to the Baroque era.

### In memory of Pefkios Georgiades...

Known as the "favourite Minister of children", the late Minister of Education and Culture Pefkios Georgiades has remained in our memory as the man who managed to gain the hearts of a whole generation of children and make his mark in the role of a Minister of Education and Culture.

A man with vision and many dreams for the children, he believed in them and their abilities. He invested in their natural creativity and his



conviction was that this curiosity, as a raw material, with the right guidance by enthusiastic teachers can lead to the love for learning. A passionate devotee of culture in all its aspects, he tried to ingrain into culture and education programs, creative innovations and changes aiming at developing children to become integrated personalities who love and respect every facet of culture. One of these innovations was the establishment

of the Musical Talent Development Programme. His great desire was to give to the exceptionally talented children of Cyprus the opportunity to develop their talent in music with the provision of education at the highest possible level. He believed in this Program and he dreamed its development into a distinctive presence both in Cyprus and the European region.

And with the Program's children's repeated and ongoing success, it appears he has been vindicated by the results...

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divine Jacopo Bassano's landscape miniature from the 1500s, the Rhodes Missal of 1504 (a richly illuminated manuscript on vellum); a Brueghel masterpiece *Madonna and Child with St John the Baptist in a Landscape*; 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century prints from the BiblioMuseum in Amsterdam; and a Konstantinos Pateras work of humble beauty (entitled simply *Madonna and Child*) which was the artist's gift to his own daughter on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

And complementing the outstanding artworks are pieces from three great photographers: Stelios Kalafatis, Mat Cressick and Guillaume Ozanne. Commissioned to approach afresh the historical representations of the Nativity – exploring the interaction between viewer, image and text – the trio worked independently, photographing famous paintings of the Nativity in churches, museums and a number of other institutions, as they identified the ways viewers and the environment converse with these famous works.

"One of the photographers, for example, focused on the idea of religious places that are also monuments, such as UNESCO shrines," Katerina clarifies. "Another turned a picture of a famous, religious-themed painting into a diptych – a traditional format for Christian art –

highlighting the artistic layers of interpretation and reinterpretation."

Interpersed throughout the paintings, the photographers' work serves to accentuate what is truly a glorious – and topical – exhibition, the ideal seasonal getaway when you need an hour or two of quiet beauty.

By Alex Norman (Cyprus Mail newspaper)

#### The Rhodes Missal

The Rhodes Missal was presented to the Order of St John in 1504, as the gift of a Senior French Knight, Fr Charles Aleman de Rochechouard, Prior of Saint-Gilles, whose arms are included frequently in the illuminated decorations. Containing the Catholic service of the Eucharist, the Missal includes two full-page miniatures, depicting the Crucifixion and God the Father. In addition, there are 16 half-page miniatures that illustrate the significant services of the Catholic religious calendar. The folios shown here depict the Annunciation to the Shepherds, the Adoration of the Shepherds and the Nativity.

The Order of St John, also known as the Knights Hospitaller and the Knights of Malta, was founded in Jerusalem in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. As a religious



By Renata Baroque painter Jan Brueghel the Elder

military order, the Knights cared for sick pilgrims and fought in the Crusades. Following successive defeats by Islamic forces, the Order slowly retreated westwards across the Mediterranean, settling in Cyprus, then Rhodes and finally in Malta, where they remained from 1530 until the arrival of Napoleon in 1798. Today, the Order continues the tradition of caring for the sick, as an exclusively humanitarian organization with an enduring religious foundation.

#### Painting by Spinello Aretino

This scene, painted by Spinello Aretino, presents the Virgin in the aftermath of childbirth, seated in the heart of the composition, while two midwives are preparing Christ's first bath. Angels hover in the upper-left hand corner of the image, and Joseph and the two animals that form a key part of the Nativity narrative imagery are also present. There is a noticeable realism in the scene, evident particularly in the poses of the figures, such as the two midwives: the striking angle of the down-turned forehead of the figure in red, and the way in which the figure on the

right prepares to place the infant, feet first, into the low basin.

Spinello Aretino was praised by Giorgio Vasari for demonstrating remarkable skill as a painter already in his youth. Vasari sacrificed him with a natural skill for painting that regard little teaching and with having a better hand before reaching 20 years of age has many who had trained under great masters.

Spinello di Luca Spinelli was born in Arezzo, probably after 1345, and is recorded in the Florentine physicians' guild – where painters were inscribed – by 1366, soon after, he was receiving important commissions in the area, both for panel and fresco paintings. Documented as working, besides in Arezzo and Florence, in Lucca, Siena and Pisa, he is acclaimed by scholarship for his dynamic sense of narrative and his style, which is seen to anticipate the growing 'realism' of Early Renaissance painting in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (See S. Weigmann, Spinello Aretino e la pittura del trecento in Toscana, Florence 2011, p. 264).

For more information: info@eventsbylley.org.



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Photo: Christodoulos Georgiades



Dances by Christodoulos Georgiades and Yiannis by Andreas Kourkis

#### Chamber Music Concerts

The exceptional String Trio comprising Cyb0 musicians Wolfgang Schneider (violin), Sotin Alejandro Medina (viola) and Peter Gopodner (cello) gave two chamber music concerts on 7 and 8 March in Nicosia and Paphos. Held in collaboration with the Organisation "European Capital of Culture – Paphos 2017", the concerts were under the established chamber music series organised by the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Foundation.

The Trio interpreted J.S. Bach's monumental Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 in Dmitry Yudanovitch S. Shostakovich's arrangement for string trio. The great German composer wrote Variations for keyboard instruments after being commissioned by the Russian ambassador to the Dresden court, with the request "to be cheered up a little". Bach's response was a vigorous and inspired work, a set of 30 variations with an amazing range of styles, forms and emotions. This deeply humanistic music speaks to us even more powerfully in today's troubled times.

#### Works by Cypriot Composers

The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra joined forces with members of the Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra to present a programme dedicated to works by five contemporary Cypriot composers, which were inspired by the history and culture of Cyprus, as well as by the experience of contemporary life. It was a small sample of the rich musical treasure and wisdom of Cypriot creators of music to day, which reinforced their active presence in the global musical landscape.

Under conductor George Kourounis, the orchestra presented *24 Adriatic Fugues* by Nicos Vassas, *Up and Down* by Andonis Yannopoulos, *Notes Branches* by Christos Athanasiou, *Dionysus*

#### THOC signs Protocol of Cooperation with National Theatre of Greece

**T**he Cyprus Theatre Organisation (THOC) and National Theatre of Greece signed a Protocol of Cooperation on 22 January 2015, opening the way for the two theatres to implement an artistic programme aimed at promoting and developing the art of theatre.

The Protocol was signed by THOC Chairman Yiannis Tsountas and the National Theatre's Chairman George Stephanidis, and Artistic Director Sotiris Hatzidakis, at the THOC Theatre in front of the Cyprus Theatre's Board members, Artistic Committee, staff and the media.

With the common perception of the theatre's educational character as a starting point, the agreement is based on four main themes:

- a) The study, research, performance of Ancient Drama
- b) The development and enhancement of Modern Greek Drama
- c) Classical and contemporary international repertoire

d) Research and experimentation on the new theatrical trends.

Special emphasis will be given to joint artistic activities that reinforce the effector origins of theatre, intercultural discourse and religious tourism, which will showcase the common roots and culture, and further boost ties between the two countries.

More specifically, the two theatres will exchange shows, co-produce plays, transfer artists, theatre theorists and technicians from one to the other, hold educational programmes, seminars and lectures, and much more.

Welcoming attendees to the special ceremony for the Protocol signing, THOC Board of Directors Chairman Yiannis Tsountas stressed the importance of the new, dynamic and creative collaboration between the two countries' state theatres, which he said was the result of relentless efforts by THOC to "broaden its action beyond Cyprus and mainly in the



Left to right: Sotiris Hatzidakis, Yiannis Tsountas and George Stephanidis

Under the music direction of conductor Pavlos Dyaroff and with soloist Yan Zhaish (viola), the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra gave three concerts in Paphos, Limassol and Nicosia on 26, 29 and 30 January 2015.

The concerts were supported by Paphos Municipality, Limassol Municipality and Radio Thess, and were organized in collaboration with the Organisation "European Capital of Culture – Paphos 2017".

#### Fugue – Mystery – Dance

The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra presented an intriguing programme in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Cyprus in Lemesos, Limassol and Nicosia on 11, 12 and 13 March 2015. The concerts opened with Cypriot composer Andreas Mavroudis' "

work *Odeon*, based on Andreas Empikos' surreal poem by the same title. This was followed by a rare opportunity to enjoy the accordion in the role of the soloist. The internationally acclaimed accordionist Denis Pakovici interpreted Johann Sebastian Bach's fascinating *Häxenreigen Concerto No. 4* in a vapor in his own arrangement for accordion, and Astur Pizzolla's passionate tango *Maga y Afición* from his tango-égen *Música de Buenos Aires*. In the second part of the concert, the intense beats pulse and atmosphere of Paeschke's work was juxtaposed against the sunburst colours, improvisatory clarinet passages and exhilarating rhythms of Zoltán Kodály's symphonic expression of folk dances from Galanta and Morozék. The concerts were conducted by the renowned maestro Danilo Mikolaić.



#### Sokratis Anthidis (trumpet)

Sokratis Anthidis was born in Corfu in 1952. He studied trumpet at F.E. Mantzaros in the class of Thanasis Vayatzopoulos and at the Hellenic Conservatory of Music in the class of Dimitris Kafyris. He has attended and still attends trumpet seminars and brass ensembles both in Greece and abroad with foreign teachers. In Greece he has also taken part in the most important musical events since 1975 and in many recordings for the Greek Radio and Television. He has mainly performed with chamber music ensembles in most European countries (but also non-EU countries, in music halls like the Carnegie Hall in New York, the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, the Salle Pleyel in Paris, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, the Yotuya Konan Hall in Tokyo, to name a few). He has been one of Manos Hadjidakis' close associates for twenty years and participated in all his concerts and recordings.

As a soloist he has performed with the State Orchestra of Athens, the State Orchestra of Thessaloniki, the Symphony Orchestra of Thessaloniki Municipality, the National Symphony Orchestra of ERT, the Orchestra of Leipzig Radio in Gewand House, the Phoenix Orchestra of Bulgaria, the Orchestra of Colours, the ALEA III Orchestra of Berlin, the "Marcys" Chamber Orchestra, the Patras Orchestra, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra and the Concertos Orchestra of Music Friends. With Concerts Friends of Music Orchestra, he took part as a soloist in the co-production of the Athens Concert Hall and the Hamburg Opera with the ballet "Odyssey" by John Neumeier and music by George Kouremenos. He worked as solo trumpet in the Orchestra of the National Opera (1975–1990), the State Athens Orchestra (1980–1991) and the National Symphony Orchestra of ERT (1976–2003). Nowadays, he still co-operates with the Orchestra of Colours. He is a founding member of the chamber music ensemble "N. Mantzaros" and of the brass quartet "NELLOS BRASS" with which he is actively recording. He is a member of the national competitions state board for the European Union Youth Orchestra and the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra.

*(Source: personal communication)*

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#### The Artists

Denis Pakovici has appeared in concert throughout Europe, South America, New Zealand and Japan. He was recently named First Guest Professor of Accordion at Seminary Giacomo College of Music in Lublin. The latest recording of Denis Pakovici is unique, as it presents him with Piano Concerti from Johann Sebastian Bach, arranged by him, together with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Gleinen under the baton of Michael Hefeleiter. Leading music magazines internationally have rated his recordings with the highest marks. Denis

Pakovici has received a number of prizes and awards, among them the prestigious award for soloists by the European Art Foundation.

Dr. Danilo Mikolaić's career has extended to Conductor and French horn player, General and artistic director. Sinfonia Philharmonic Orchestra of Wahrzych (2005–2010), Professor at the Music Academy of Lódz, General Manager of CONCORNO Kultmanagement (Berlin), guest conductor of the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra (Bangkok). He has collaborated with many renowned orchestras

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Waking Point

contemporary reality, virtual or otherwise, in the rest of the world.

In this "comedia tragedia", multi-talented Juan Daniel F. Molero takes us on a digital trip down all the pernicious byways of the internet. Peruvian schoolgirl Luz looks a lot more innocent than she is. She meets Junior online, who spends most of his days perusing in internet cafes. His ambition is earning a living making amateur porn.

Junior, obsessed by MySpace predictions of the end of the world, does everything you are not supposed to do with Google Glass. It is immediately clear that his infatuation of the lovely Luz will have had consequences. But for whom?

Full of twists and glances, featuring a psychedelic acid trip amongst ancient ruins and an encounter involving a guinea pig, *Waking Point* (and *Other Real Stories*) is a fascinating sex-love story as well as a portrait of life today. Molero's generation grew up with a flourishing internet, full of confidence in the endless opportunities and freedom offered by this new medium.

Molero, whose documentary *Revolutionaries* played in Rotterdam in 2010, pays homage in his feature debut to the power of the (misleading) image.

As far film shows, the tactics introduced by controversial Peruvian president Fujimori (1990–2000) to divert the attention of the Peruvian people from what really matters (using sensational talk of full of tales of murder, sex, celebrities, corruption and paranormal activities), are still being used to this day.

#### Waking Point

By Jairmol Nithamrong

A serious film about serious, complex issues (including a dramatic car crash), presented in a light, playful way, the film follows two very different men, each of whom changes his life in his own way. This does not seem to be a direct result of the choices they make. Change can be like that.

*Waking Point* is an exercise in self-examination.

even if Thai director Jairmol Nithamrong does not appear directly in the film.

It opens with images of a car crash involving Nithamrong's parents. Disturbing original news photos are initially used, but the director quickly switches to a fictional reconstruction of the scene of a crash, deep in a wood. We do not yet know how this shocking crime is related to the car accident. Various facts and stories are cautiously presented, the pieces of the puzzle do not fall into place straight away.

*Waking Point* follows a young reporter who attends the reconstruction without being particularly impressed. He is against injustice, but is unable to give concrete expression to the feeling. Another storyline involves motel owner Ya, a joyless woman with little feeling for her family. His attempts to escape his day-to-day existence don't really help.

The film is not sombre, however. Nithamrong makes good use of diverting elements such as karaoke videos and popular music to develop his themes with a light touch. The question of how his parents' accident has affected his life is a serious aside; how all of our actions affect the rest of our lives.



IFFR Festival Cinema - De Doelen



The night ceremony

#### IFFR Audience Award 2015

During International Film Festival Rotterdam, visitors are invited to rate the films with a voting card. The final score determines which director will win the IFFR Audience Award 2015. The prize is traditionally handed out on the last Saturday of the festival (right before the closing film). The prize is €10,000.

This year's winner was *The Dark Horse* by James Nairer Robertson, a highly praised drama from New Zealand telling the true, impressive story of Omeara Petri, a New Zealander suffering from bipolar disorder who died in 2011. In a society in which it is difficult for a lot of young people to resist the temptation to stray from the straight and narrow, Petri tries to keep young people on track through chess. This involves overcoming the challenges of his condition and at times some pretty nasty circumstances as well.

*The Dark Horse* is buoyed by great acting from Cliff Curtis, familiar from *Whiplash* (2014) and *Once Were Warriors* (1994). The directing by young filmmaker James Nairer Robertson, who also wrote the screenplay, also impresses. This film is often somber, at times raw, but above all intensely poignant. *The Dark Horse* is a film that resonates long after you leave the cinema.

#### About International Film Festival Rotterdam

International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) offers a high quality line-up of carefully selected fiction and documentary feature films, short films and media art. The festival's Tiger Awards Competitions, Bright Future and Spectrum sections concern recent work only, among which are many world premieres. In its Signals section, IFFR presents retrospectives and themed programmes.

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Still from *The Impressions of a Drowned Man*

formed the starting point for Kyros Papavassiliou when making *Impressions of a Drowned Man*. It is no coincidence that the main character is an existential poet. Kostas Karyotakis is considered one of the most influential Greek poets of the 1920s. His poems, often impressions of nature, are highly expressive, showing influences from Expressionism and Surrealism.

Understated in his own time, Karyotakis committed suicide in 1928 at the age of 32. In the film, he appears in the here and now; without knowing who he is or where he comes

from. Although he is totally free to do what he wants, he is nevertheless shaped by the people he meets. Everyone who crosses his path knows who he is, tells him what his days will be like and how it will all end.

Almost as in a film noir, the film is a search for identity while the story unfolds with clarity and poetically. Referring to Karyotakis' poetic style, the film is also shaped by impressions of nature and a touch of surrealism. The world we see is a strange reality, during serious and intellectual, with a beautiful, melancholic heart.

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## The winners of the Hivos Tiger Awards Competition 2015

As is the case every year at International Film Festival Rotterdam, five of the nominated directors went home with a Hivos Tiger Award and prize money of €15,000. Besides the prize, they also gain international recognition and attention.

### La obrada siglo (The Project of the Century)

By Carlos M. Quintero

Diving effectively between raw psychological realism and dreamy surrealism and loaded with unique Cuban archive footage, this film portrays three generations of Cubans. In their apartment in the workers' quarters at a half-built nuclear power station, they are forced to simply carry on, a fresh voice from, and about, a country in a stalemate. The Electro-Nuclear City (ENC) was once part of an ambitious Soviet-Cuban venture to build the first nuclear power station in Jangas in the Caribbean. But the fall of the Soviet Union brought everything to a complete standstill. Decades later, the 'project of the century' has still not been completed, and the enormous dome towers like a silent poll above the dismal blocks of workers' flats. Carlos Quintero is his second feature film in this fascinating location, where the workers live at the time of the construction.

*The Project of the Century* was shot in appropriate black-and-white. Interspersed with beautiful, unique archive material from Cuban television – giving a more rose-tinted, affective impression of the situation – this adds to the social-realist atmosphere, which gradually makes way for a surreal, at times absurd sense of oppression.



ADRIEN TIGER AWARDS WINNERS d.l.-R. Adrien, René Daniel F. Molina

PHOTOGRAPH: CARINA W. DEKKER, ALEXANDER P. HILDE

Men from the just control department arrive to spray an apartment for dengue fever mosquitoes. Three Cuban men live here – son Leo, father Rafael, and grandfather Otto – forced by circumstances to live together. This is not easy. Otto is obsessed with his few material possessions. Rafael is unemployed and without any prospect of work since construction of the power station stopped. Leo is back again because his girlfriend broke off with him. On television, they watch the arrival of the Cuban delegation at the Olympic Games in London. The grandfather has a golfish, Bergman-like quality who can breathe under water.

### Videophilic (and Other Viral Syndromes) – Videofilia (y otros sindromes virales)

By Juan Daniel F. Molina

Internet addicts and slackers, not-so-innocent schoolgirls and amateur porn using Google Glass, Mayans and the end of the world, and trips and games pigs as exotic as exotic things in Lima, the Peruvian capital, are pretty similar to



La obrada siglo



Videofilia

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THOC cultural Days in Nicosia

Mediterranean and European area, through such fertile, transnational cooperation".

He explained, "Through such cultural networking we aim towards the fruitful exchange of experience and knowledge that will bridge any differences and highlight the substantial power of the art of theater."

Toumanis pointed out that it was not by chance that THOC used the National Theatre of Greece as the artistic model to base its own operations on. "This unity of the two theatres as regards their perceptions and expectations betokens a sincere and productive cooperation, which promises to promote our common goals and constructively contribute to transforming our key objectives into actions," he said.

Underlining the need for more such transnational agreements in cultural matters, the THOC Chairman said this need was all the more pressing nowadays, when every facet and expression of culture is under threat of deteriorating amid the harsh economic and cultural crises which are unfortunately affecting both countries. "The cooperation between the two state theatres could not have come at a better time, to bring a refreshing new lease of life to the cultural and artistic life of Cyprus and Greece, but also to shield our countries' culture."

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre of Greece, George Stephanakis, said his personal ties with Cyprus were very strong. "There are many things that connect me to Cyprus. I experienced the island first hand, but also Cyprus through Seferis (Georgios, the

great Greek poet)," he said, adding that this has made him all the more determined to make this collaboration a success.

"Each and every stone (in Cyprus) is in our culture and in our poetry and if I may say so, I am enchanted by it and I hope that we all turn the words into actions and altogether attend the common show," said Stephanakis.

Artistic Director Soteris Hatzidakis said the Protocol started from the same reality and the fact that both countries are currently in the midst of a financial war with difficult conditions, both financially and morally. "Culture is not a derivative of growth; it is a component element and the political branches of both countries need to understand that," said Hatzidakis.

Among the two theatres' planned actions is to present, in co-operation with the National Theatre of Israel, a play on the three letters – epistis – of Apollon Paul. The plan is to present it in Paphos in 2017, when the town will become the Cultural Capital of Europe.

Hatzidakis also announced plans for the two theatres to co-produce a show for the 2016 Athens and Epidaurus Festival, thus enabling THOC to enter the Epidaurus for the first time, through the Greek National Theatre.

This agreement will also see the National Theatre of Greece provide THOC with invaluable expertise on matters such as lighting, audio, archiving and more.

Concluding, Hatzidakis said: "Exceptional people of the theatre live, operate and create here in Cyprus."

## The Impressions of a Drowned Man

A film by Kyros Papavassiliou that made it to this year's International Film Festival Rotterdam

Cypriot director Kyros Papavassiliou's film *The Impressions of a Drowned Man* was among fifteen other international stories to make it to the competition section of the 44th International Film Festival Rotterdam, which took place on 21 January – 27 February 2015.

Specifically, *The Impressions of a Drowned Man* was nominated in the Hivos Tiger Awards Competition.

Even though it did not receive an award, Kyros Papavassiliou's achievement did not go unnoticed by the Ministry of Education and Culture, which funded the film and which proudly announced the director's nomination in the Federal:

"International Film Festival Rotterdam is one of the most important and biggest film events in the world, which promotes talent, quality and innovating and special cinematic aspects," the Ministry announced.

The film is a poetic thriller, based on the final days of the great Greek poet Kostas Karyotakis. For more information: [www.kytrfilm.com](http://www.kytrfilm.com)

A production of dryTree Films

Directed by Kyros Papavassiliou

Co-produced by Monika Nikolaidou and Yiorgos Panzis (Filmbladis– Cyprus), Yianni Chalikakos (Greece), Bojan Matulovic (Kustur Production– Slovenia), the Cultural Services of the Republic of Cyprus and South-Eastern European Cinema Network (SEE).

Main cast Theodore Pantazis, Maria Tsiridaki-Pantazis, Christodoulos Merlos

Script Kyros Papavassiliou, in collaboration with Philippe Gianni Kloyz, George Zois and Maria Vamvakidou

Cinematography Constantinos Othonos

Montage Yiannis Chalikakos

Music Niles Veloutsos



INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM

21 JANUARY - 27 FEBRUARY 2015

Screenplay: Andy Bagley

Sound Design: Persephone Milou

Costume: Niki Panagiotou, Constantinos Andreadis

Production: Kyros Papavassiliou/dryTree Films

### The Impressions of a Drowned Man

(Οι επιγενές ενος πλημμυρού)

A man who doesn't know who he is meets his former love. She tells him he is a famous poet, Kostas Karyotakis, who killed himself in 1928. Every year he returns on the anniversary of his death. A day that has taken place many, many times before plays out again. Will Kostas make the same decision again?

Do we take responsibility for who we are? How far do we dare to be in creating our identity, and to what extent do we take heed of what people expect of us? These existential questions

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## The Magic of Heaven and Earth

Exhibition by Susan Kerr

A new exhibition of paintings by the well-known artist Susan Kerr opened at the Gallery, Kypriaki Gonia, in Larnaca on 4 February 2015.

This new exhibition, entitled *The Magic of Heaven and Earth*, presented for the first time in Cyprus, paintings of the *Savo*, a series of artworks that have only previously been shown in Italy, Austria and UK, at international exhibitions including the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Florence, Art & Integration in Italy, Spirit of Art in London and Vienna, and the Art Fairs of Florence and Vienna. In addition, paintings relating to Earth cover a wide range of topics from landscapes of Cyprus and abroad, flowers of the earth, and figure compositions.

All the paintings have one thing in common: the love of light and colour, expressing the natural elements of earth, fire and water, enveloped by the immediate environment or space.

Susan Kerr is concerned with expressing light and space, interior space, landscape space, or the infinite Cosmos. "Light and colour are my means of expression and I explore the innumerable possibilities for creating this phenomenon," states the artist. "Recent paintings are about universal life, and cosmic space, searching for the mysterious sources



of light, colour and life, and, in this way, expressing the Magic of Heaven and Earth."

In the catalogue 'Il Colore del Colore' at Galleria Minerva in Florence, Italian Art Critic Barbara Angelozzi writes of the participation of Susan Kerr: "This search for pure abstraction, in which colour is freed from the subject, resolves itself in an expressive study of the elements. Energetic exchanges, with cosmological implications, realize themselves in chromatic explosions on the canvas."



### About the artist

Susan Kerr was born in London in 1943 and studied painting and graphic arts, from 1961 to 1965 at Bath Academy of Art, Corsham, and from 1965 to 1966, Art Education at Leicester University UK.

She is married to well known Cypriot artist Costas Jachim, and moved to Cyprus where she settled in 1966 and acquired Cyprus Citizenship. They established their studio and gallery in the occupied village of Ellipais, birthplace of Jachim, and worked there until forced to leave in the 1974 Turkish invasion.

She lived and worked in London and Athens until 1977, then returned to Cyprus, where she

continued to work and exhibit her paintings at the new Bellapais Studios in Nicosia.

From 2003 Susan Kerr taught Visual Arts (all levels) at the American International School in Cyprus/Nicosia, until 2013. Then she continued to work exclusively on painting and graphic design. Susan Kerr's first solo exhibition was at the Cyprus Hilton in 1969 and she has subsequently held many more solo exhibitions, including two in Berlin and Munich in Germany, Greece and many others in Cyprus.

Susan Kerr has also participated in many group exhibitions in Cyprus and abroad, including the recent international exhibitions mentioned above, with the latest being Little Venetian in Bologna, and Spirit of Art in Vienna 2014.

either side of the saddles and my job was to take the laden donkeys to the "store". My father who had to stay behind to do some other work in the field, said to me: "With 6 others the donkeys and keep an eye on them load, push them back up gently if they start leaning to one side." One of the donkeys was short and its load was only a couple of feet from the ground. In the coming half, if the pods were crushed they would split open and release the beans. Well, the three laden donkeys started walking and I followed them; we hardly covered a couple of hundred yards when I heard my father shouting: "They are going to fall, can you not see them, and what did I tell you to do?" He came running, angry and upset. Only then I noticed what was happening, but it was too late. The load on the small donkey who was leaning over to the right so much that it was dragging on the ground, crushing the dried up bean stalks and pods. That event is still very vivid in my mind, but for the life of me, I do not know why I didn't see it happening before my father did. That was it, my father had enough of me as a farm-hand, my new career also came to a sudden end.

### Turning to education

Not knowing what to do with me, my father decided to send me away, to Samuels Commercial School, a

private secondary school in Nicosia. That was a few years after the war and there was a great demand for farm produce, so my father had some money by then. As I was fourteen years old, and I hadn't been to school for two years, I had to take some school exams so that they could decide which class I should be admitted to. They allowed me to jump a class, which was good for my dad, because he saved one year's fees, but bad for me because I had a lot of catching up to do. I knew that that was my last chance. So, I worked hard, studying every night sometimes until the early hours. I was determined to escape from the drudgery I experienced in the village.

After the first year, I caught up, then on I found learning and studying easier, and at the end of my four years I won three of the school's prestigious learning prizes.

I then found a job as a clerk and worked for two years, whilst attending evening classes for Advanced Accounting and Turkish. I enjoyed the accounting classes but not Turkish. I did Turkish because at the time it was necessary and inevitable for a government job. Took the relevant exams and passed accounting but failed Turkish, which was really just as well, because had I passed Turkish I would have found a government job and stayed there without

seeking higher education. Instead, I decided to go abroad and pursue higher studies in accounting. By then I had saved three hundred pounds, and when I told my father that I wanted to go to England and become a Chartered Accountant, he agreed and promised to support me after my money ran out. So in the autumn of 1956, I left for England.

It was only after I arrived in the UK that I found out that I did not have the required exams in order to become an "articled clerk" and start studying, by correspondence course, to become a Chartered Accountant. So I spent two years at a college in Cardiff studying various GCE 'O' and 'A' level subjects, in order to qualify for admission. The gap between my previous education and the GCE was too wide, especially English which was hardly adequate for such an ambitious course, and at times it was hard-going during those two years. During the summer vacations in order to earn some money, one year I worked as a waiter in my uncle's restaurant in Dowl, and the other I washed dishes in a big restaurant in London.

When I became an articled clerk my boss, who was also a qualified Chartered Secretary, encouraged me to study for the examinations of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. Being a glutton for punishment I did, and in time I ended up with two professional qualifications.

Of the two, I chose accountancy for my career, and gradually it went from strength to strength. I had a number of positions, such as Senior Accountant, Audit Manager, Group Manager, Financial Manager, Regional Financial Manager and Senior Regional Financial Manager. I was fortunate to work all my life, i.e. never been unemployed or made redundant, and it did not bother me that I did not make it to even higher positions. Although I was continuously under pressure to meet demanding deadlines, and deal with numerous financial 'organizations' and 'organizations' in my region, I found the level of my duties and responsibilities not at all taxing. So, I turned my attention to further studies.

Over the years I attended evening classes in pottery, car maintenance, cordon bleu cooking, bee keeping, creative writing, dancing, computer programming, French and Italian. I also studied and acquired three University Diplomas in Social Studies, Computer

Studies, and IT. My interest in further studies did not stop there. I registered an another evening course and gained Master's degree (in Social Ethics) from Cardiff University in 1991. As soon as I completed that, I started another part time senior degree course at the University of Gloucestershire and was awarded my doctorate (in Environmental Accounting) in 1996.

Whilst doing my PhD, I wrote and had published many articles, and when I went to creative writing classes I also wrote a number of short stories, which I hope to publish one day.

When I was 65 I retired and left the accountancy profession and started presenting a variety of courses, and teaching, part time, at Cardiff University, where I am still teaching Managing Finance.

After getting my second professional qualification I got married to a Welsh girl. We had three children, a son and two daughters, and now have five grandchildren. Since I left Cyprus, apart from the three years when I lived and worked in Athens, I have spent the rest of my life in and around Cardiff, Wales. I am now living with my second wife Bryn.

### The Apostate

My latest accomplishment is the publication of *The Apostate*, my first book.

Of all my achievements, whether they were professional, academic, or career advancement, the most fulfilling has been the writing and publication of *The Apostate*. It is a mystery thriller about greed, religion, and sex, all intertwined in murder and retribution about contemporary issues.

It was launched on the 15 November 2014 at the Barry library. The event was publicized well, and in advance, both by the library and the local press. It was attended by a couple from Barry and other towns in South Wales and was followed up afterwards in the local press with further coverage and photographs.

*The Apostate* is published by SilverWood Books. Available also from Amazon as paperback ISBN 978-1-78172-855-7, and as eBook ISBN 978-178172-855-9, or from book sellers.



MP Miltiadis Mavroudis in the back row, standing from the left.

## The World of Cyprus

Exhibition by Yiannis Pelekanos

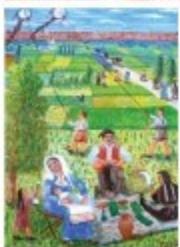
**A**rtist Yiannis Pelekanos presented his 36<sup>th</sup> solo exhibition *The World of Cyprus* at the Gallery, Kypriaki Gonia, in Larnaca from 11 to 23 March 2015.

His paintings, depicting traditional Cypriot life, provide a vibrant and colourful contemporary look at a theme that is rarely touched upon by modern local artists.

With his paintings, Yiannis Pelekanos attempts to transport us to the past. His goal is to take something that is gradually vanishing and make it live forever. His art is characterised by genuine chromatic colours, his instincts

and the sense of movement. He is spontaneous and sincere, in his own words "like every native person". In his exhibition *The World of Cyprus*, Yiannis Pelekanos presented paintings created in small and large surfaces. His main inspiration came from the traditions, customs, culture and occupations of the Cypriot farmer. "My source of inspiration is the rich palette of the Cypriot tradition and folklore," the artist explains. It is often supported by his personal experiences and his memory revived by reading books about folklore and history.

In the words of Yiannis Pelekanos: "Some use words to create literature, others write verses and create poetry, or notes and create music. I paint and write with this instrument the history of my homeland, the traditions, the customs and its beauty. The pursuit of women at home, the knitting, baking and making pasta; the occupations of the villages in the fields like threshing, harvesting and cotton planting; scenes from the Cypriot traditions about religion like the swallows in Easter, Epiphany Cards, returning home after the Resurrection Service, the reunion of a family, like the matchmaking, the marriage and its feasts."



A result of the deep love for the art

By Dr. Eleni Louca  
Art Critic

The owner of the gallery, Nicos Papharidis, who fosters the popular art and is an artist himself, organized his "space", which at the beginning was on K. Kalogerou Street, in order to exhibit his traditional pieces of art and to give the chance to the public to get acquainted with traditional art.

He later decided to give opportunity to other artists to exhibit their work and so he transformed an old traditional house into a gallery to serve this exact purpose. This new venue was at 45 Stadiou Street, near the old O.S.Z stadium. Very near is the ancient church of St Lazarus and in the neighbourhood there are many mansions

that remind one of the old beauty of Larnaca. This stone house, lovingly cared for by him, preserves the traditional arches, the high roof and the big windows, all intact. The place is discreetly decorated with the artist's creations that add to the house's traditional beauty. Since the opening of the gallery in January 1993 under the name Kypriaki Gonia, it has hosted a number of remarkable artists.

What is the role of the gallery? It is the link between the creator and the public and gives the chance to people in Cyprus to get acquainted with the artists and brings a cultural air to the town. The gallery's custom of viewing the works with respect and responsibility, while keeping it away from any kind of commercialisation, helps accomplish its goal.

