

CULTURAL REVIEW

CYPRUS
HIGH COMMISSION
CULTURAL SECTION
LONDON UK

2014 - 2018

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A glimpse
into 2018

Foreword

When we initiated our cultural programme in September 2014, our agenda was based on studying the Cypriot community in the UK, the cultural scene of London and the strengths and limitations of cultural diplomacy. Naturally, our vision and priorities became more precise with hands-on experience.

And as time went by, our understanding of who we were, and what our mission was, gradually developed. It became clear how our community had matured, how vast and charming is the cultural amalgam of London, how great is the impact of social media and how beneficial it would be to create synergies with other organisations and to engage new audiences.

This review will demonstrate (see Chapters 3-6) that the past four years have been a period of intense transformation, reflexivity and productivity for the Cultural Section of the Cyprus High Commission. Before setting the agenda, however, it was important to take into account the new global challenges such as the dystopic rebirth of nationalism, extremism, racism, sexism and politics of terror.

One of our primary goals was to achieve equilibrium by balancing national priorities with our role as part of the international community. Equally important was our desire to showcase the significant contribution of the Cypriot community in the fields of art, social sciences and the humanities. A special effort was made to place emphasis on quality, excellence and young talent.

Prioritising, selecting the content and knowing our audience were only part of the exciting process of learning-by-doing; we could not implement our vision without creating the requisite tangible and digital infrastructure (see Chapter 2). It quickly became apparent that the existing vessel was outdated and too small for our aims.

We needed to refurbish our exhibition spaces, purchase new equipment and buy new furniture. Additionally, in order to operate effectively in London we needed an online presence and so had to create a range of digital tools. Building and maintaining tangible and digital infrastructure was essential to our effort to reach new audiences and keep track of our activities. Needless to say, with Cyprus still in financial turmoil on account of the 2013 economic crisis, obtaining funds to build this infrastructure was extremely challenging.

Nevertheless, step by step, piece by piece, we can now say with confidence that we achieved, largely, what was initially planned, and that we have, accordingly, laid the foundations for a cultural “home away from home”.




Dr Achilleas Hadjikyriacou
Cultural Counsellor
September 2014 –



Macbeth: Without Words
14-29 Aug. 2016 (p44)



Strategic development

Throughout the period reviewed, the Cyprus High Commission dedicated significant resources initially to gain and subsequently to maintain its “fitness” to enter the cultural terrain of London. After all, having an up-to-date infrastructure and creating relevant content is a prerequisite for any organisation operating within the melting pot of so many embassies, galleries, museums, universities, theatres and charities. Each of these organisations implements its own cultural agenda and targets large audiences. To compete (but also facilitate collaboration) with these organisations, one must first evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to his/ her own institution (SWOT analysis) and then take action towards sustainable development. This was a huge challenge, especially from September 2014 until December 2015 when effort was made to set an appropriate agenda for the Cultural Section of the Cyprus High Commission.

International/institutional collaborations

A primary goal was to extend our network of partner organisations in the United Kingdom. Thus, since early 2015, successful and longstanding synergies with leading universities, museums, cultural organisations and other diplomatic missions have been created. On many occasions, what started as a one-off institutional collaboration has developed through mutual benefit into annual or multiple events. Examples of this include: the rebirth of The Cyprus Lecture Series at King’s College, the celebration of Cyprus National Day at the

British Museum, the commitment to a Cyprus cultural evening at the British Library, the exhibitions in Europe House by Cypriot artists and the annual visits of diplomats and representatives of national cultural institutions to the Cypriot Galleries of British Museums (see Chapters 4, 5 and 6).

In addition to extending our reach to a wider audience, being open to new collaborations gave two other benefits. Firstly, it provided an opportunity not only to follow but also to lead international networks and thereby gain valuable experience. The election of the Cypriot Cultural Counsellor to the presidency of the European Union National Institutes for Culture Network (EUNIC) in 2016, one of the largest cultural groups in London, was pivotal. Secondly, it increased our polyphony by providing excellent opportunities to embrace the whole spectrum of culture. By engaging in a dialogue of exchange our events’ agenda became more expansive with book presentations, concerts, documentary screenings, theatre performances, contemporary art exhibitions, academic lectures, panel discussions, film days and participation in international festivals. This diversity is reflected in the summary of our cultural programme, which follows in Chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 and in our vision for 2018 in Chapter 7.

Tangible infrastructure

We undertook a diverse cultural programme and to be able to deliver it we had to improve our in-house facilities. Operating in a listed building and having a limited budget proved an additional challenge but over time we managed to complete the refurbishment of our exhibition spaces. Sometimes through public funds and occasionally through in-kind donations, we managed to acquire new chairs and increase our seating capacity from 60 to 120. An elevated stage gave us the opportunity to host panel discussions, book presentations, lectures and artists' performances in a more professional manner. The installation of a public-address system improved the sound quality in our exhibition rooms and facilitated events with a standing audience of more than 200 people. The insertion of a rail-type hanging system proved essential in displaying periodical and permanent art exhibitions. Most importantly, the installation of a laminated floor gave a fresh look to our exhibition spaces. All these improvements significantly enhanced the dynamics of the Cyprus High Commission's presence in the British capital.



Digital infrastructure and audience growth

Of course, having a suitable space to display art and host public events is one thing; filling it with people is another. In 2014 the strategy for creating public awareness for cultural shows had been based primarily on hard-copy invitations sent by post to a limited (and largely outdated) list of individuals. Announcements in the Cypriot community newspapers would follow as an additional means of attracting a wider audience. The limitations of using this system alone soon became evident. It was time-consuming to maintain, expensive to operate and failed to reach a large portion of our community. Expecting young people and professionals to respond positively to printed communications in a climate where information was exchanged mostly through on-line sources and social media was unrealistic. After observing how other organisations had tackled this challenge, a decision was taken to make digital the way the Cyprus High Commission planned, organised, implemented, promoted and documented its cultural initiatives.

The digitisation process started in early 2015. By the beginning of 2016 accounts had been created in all main social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) and a contacts e-database compiled, which facilitated the distribution of invitations and newsletters via e-mail campaigns. The launch of a user-friendly website complemented our digital strategy. Currently it serves as an online blog, an audio-visual archive for our events and a communication hub to which visitors can subscribe in order to receive notification of our initiatives.

Over the past 3 years our audience has grown to include more than 2,500 active subscribers to our e-database, almost 4,000 followers on Twitter and 1,000 on Facebook. The improved online presence had an immediate positive impact on our “physical following”. Since 2016 we have achieved maximum capacity at most events with a turnout in each instance of between 100 and 400 attendees.

This did not, of course, lead to the complete abandonment of traditional media. Press releases for the Cypriot community newspapers are still being regularly published and interviews are frequently given to journalists, some of which appear in leading newspapers and on TV channels in Cyprus.

Digital since 2015

Since 2016 you can find us on:



Cultural section CHC UK



@culturalchcuk



@culturalchcuk



Email
newsletter



New website
www.culturalchc.co.uk

In the last 3 years
audiences have grown:



2500

subscribers to contacts e-database



4000

followers



1000

followers

2015



2014

- 1 **13 Oct.** **4 Artists 4 Techniques** | Art exhibition | p13
- 2 **08 Dec.** **Memories** | Documentary screening | p14
- 3 **15 Dec.** **Ermis Theodorakis concert: Works by contemporary Cypriot composers** | Concert | p15

2015

- 4 **16 Apr.** **Could you please rethink under-standing?** | Art exhibition | p18
- 5 **12 May** **Masculinities and gender relations in the old Greek cinema** | Public lecture | p17
- 6 **10 Jun.** **Visit of EUNIC representatives to the A. G. Leventis Gallery at the British Museum** | Diplomatic visit | p22
- 7 **17 Jun.** **Vanishing Cyprus** | Photography exhibition | p20
- 8 **18 Jun.** **A Slight Risk** | Theatre play | p21
- 9 **07 Sep.** **A Living Archive** | Archive launch | p24

2016

- 10 **25 Sep.** **The mapping of Cyprus, 1485-1885** | Public lecture | p26
- 11 **02 Oct.** **Travelling artists to Cyprus from the 1700s to 1960** | Public lecture | p25
- 12 **16 Oct.** **Wanassa, Kypris, Aphrodite** | Documentary screening/artist talk | p30
- 13 **30 Oct.** **Cyprus: its archaeology and heritage** | Conference/study day | p28
- 14 **19 Nov.** **Invisible Worlds** | Art exhibition | p29
- 15 **30 Nov.** **Christmas jazz concert with soprano Katerina Mina** | Concert | p32
- 16 **04 Dec.** **Visions & Realities** | Conference | p33

2016

- 17 **26 Feb.** **Launch of Reading's Corpus of Cypriot Antiquities** | Book launch | p35
- 18 **22 Mar.** **Visit of EUNIC representatives to the A.G. Leventis Gallery at the Fitzwilliam Museum** | Diplomatic visit | p36

2017

2018



- 19 **28 Apr. Relapse: Identity** | Art exhibition | p38
- 20 **03 Jun. 12 Préludes** | Concert | p39
- 21 **07 Jun. Time and Space** | Art exhibition | p40
- 22 **08 Jul. (Re)Framing Identities** | Junior art exhibition | p42
- 23 **14-29 Aug. Macbeth: Without Words** | Theatre play | p44
- 24 **23 Sep. Development of postal communication in Cyprus, from the 14th to 20th century** | Public lecture | p48
- 25 **30 Sep. The ground beneath our feet** | Artists' talk | p51
- 26 **02 Oct. Cyprus Short Film Day 2016** | Cinema | p52
- 27 **14-15 Oct. Greeks and Cypriots in the United Kingdom, 1815-2015** | Conference | p43
- 28 **26 Oct. Cyprus: A Culinary Journey** | Photography exhibition | p46
- 29 **05 Dec. Gender equality and women's empowerment** | Public lecture | p47

2017

- 30 **30 Jan. Deconstructing patriarchy in post-war Greek cinema and society** | Public lecture | p57
- 31 **21 Feb. Four Seasons: A concert for Cyprus** | Concert | p60
- 32 **16 Mar. The Third Country: My Little Odyssey** | Book presentation | p55
- 33 **20 Apr. Light and Shadow** | Concert | p58
- 34 **16 May Destination Earth** | Book presentation | p59
- 35 **17 May Visit of EUNIC representatives to the A.G. Leventis Gallery at the Ashmolean Museum** | Diplomatic visit | p63
- 36 **07 Jun. syn[chrono]sides** | Artists' book presentation | p64
- 37 **2-27 Aug. Ubu Roi** | Theatre play | p67
- 38 **01 Oct. Cyprus Short Film Day 2017** | Cinema | p68
- 39 **02 Oct. The Story of Aphrodite** | Documentary screening | p71
- 40 **23 Nov. 33° 3' 45" East** | Art exhibition | p72

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Highlights

2014



4 Artists 4 Techniques

📅 13 Oct. 2014

📍 Cyprus High Commission, London

To celebrate Cyprus National Day, this exhibition brought together four UK based Cypriot artists whose work is largely inspired by the history, culture and social structures of Cyprus. Through different techniques and materials Michael Mina, Doros Partasides, Yorgos Papadopoulos and Cos Gerolemou offered a kaleidoscopic view of the island as a living and constantly changing entity.

The exhibition was opened by the spouse of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mrs Andri Anastasiades.

Memories

📅 8 Dec. 2014

📍 Cypriot Community Centre, London

Produced by Panicos Neocleous in 2011, *Memories* narrates the true story of Yannis Maratheftis, a Greek-Cypriot, and Fethi Akinci, a Turkish-Cypriot, who fought on opposite sides during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. The documentary follows the journey of Akinci to locate the soldier he shot in 1974 (Maratheftis) and the friendship that consequently developed between them, promoting a message of peace and reconciliation.





Ermis Theodorakis concert

Works by contemporary Cypriot composers

 **15 Dec. 2014**

 **Cyprus High Commission, London**

Ermis Theodorakis, a renowned pianist, performed compositions by four contemporary Cypriot composers (Tasos Stylianou, Andreas Moustoukis, Andreas Yangopoulos and Haris Sophocleous). Inspired by their contemporary, social, cultural, and natural context the four composers worked at the frontier of their field by experimenting with new technologies and techniques. In this sense, their compositions, performed for the first time in the UK, enrich Cypriot musical culture and create a platform for future musicians.

Organised in collaboration with the Centre of Cypriot Composers.

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Highlights

2015



Masculinities and gender relations in the old Greek cinema

A close reading of *Neighbourhood the Dream* (1961)

📅 12 May 2015

📍 University of Cambridge, Cambridge

Dr Achilleas Hadjikyriacou delivered a public lecture on the representations of masculinity and gender relations in the Greek cinema of the 1950s and 1960s, examining the cultural, social and political dimensions of one of the most controversial films of this period. Through a close reading of *Neighbourhood the Dream*, it was demonstrated how the interaction between social and filmic worlds can inform contemporary researchers about how masculinity and gender relations, as socio-cultural products, are constructed and transformed. The multiple aspects of the interaction between film text and social context were central to this lecture, which provided new insights into the historical interpretation of popular cinema.

Organised in collaboration with The Modern Greek Section of the University of Cambridge and the Society for Modern Greek Studies.

Could you please rethink under-standing?

📅 16 Apr. 2015

📍 Europe House, 12 Star Gallery, London

Initiated by an observation that the work produced by Cypriot visual artists often resonates in a very particular way, this show attempted to explore what might be considered Cypriot sensibility.

Visual artists Helen Michael, Anastasia Mina, and Yorgos Petrou exhibited work from their current practices, created both individually and collaboratively for this show. *Could you please rethink under-standing* allowed space for the artists and viewers to consider the possibility of the existence of a Cypriot visual language.





Vanishing Cyprus

📅 17 Jun. 2015

📍 Cyprus High Commission, London

Vanishing Cyprus was based on the work of renowned interiors' photographer Simon Brown depicting traditional homes of villagers in Cyprus. The exhibition re-presented Cyprus as a constantly changing social and cultural entity, providing an opportunity to experience the psyche of the rural cosmos in a Mediterranean landscape.

Brown's work on Cypriot landscapes creates the illusion of a journey back in time, not because it consists of historical photographs but because through his lens, Cyprus' traditions seem to be captured in a time capsule.

Organised in collaboration with the Cyprus Tourist Organisation.





A Slight Risk

📅 18 Jun. 2015

📍 Soho Theatre, London

Set in Kerinia during the three days of the 2004 Annan referendum in Cyprus, *A Slight Risk* examines the latent conflicts hidden in the psyches of an apparently trouble-free couple that wish to spend the rest of their lives in a place by the sea and under the sun. In this acutely researched play, which was first presented in Kypria International Festival 2012, the director, Paris Erotokritou, unravels the exploitative relationships and politics present in the bricks and mortar of a house in the northern occupied part of Cyprus.

Visit of EUNIC representatives to the A. G. Leventis Gallery at the British Museum

📅 10 Jun. 2015

📍 British Museum, London

With a view to extending the international cultural network of Cyprus, the visit provided an opportunity to foreign diplomats and members of EUNIC to encounter ancient Cypriot history and culture by means of a private tour of the A. G. Leventis Gallery at the British Museum, led by Dr Thomas Kiely, curator of Ancient Cyprus at the British Museum.

“

Dr Kiely communicated his knowledge and passion for Ancient Cyprus and kept us rapt with his insights, which he leavened with irrepressible wit. This was a perfect example of cultural diplomacy in action

”

Jeremy O' Sullivan

Cultural Attaché, European Commission
Representation in UK Europe House





A Living Archive

The Greek diaspora archives of King's College London

📅 7 Sep. 2015

📍 Cyprus High Commission, London

In this “living” archive at King's College London, Greek and Cypriot migration to the UK is documented in audio, video and print. Narratives of migrants' lives, their letters and travelling documents, old photos and beloved objects brought from the motherland, have been deposited at the Department of Archives and Corporate Records of King's College London over the past two decades alongside historical references and copies of previous research. The launch at the Cyprus High Commission celebrated the completion of the archive's catalogue and its opening to the public.





Travelling artists to Cyprus from the 1700s to 1960 through the Cyprus Visual Arts Research Foundation (CVAR) collection

📅 2 Oct. 2015

📍 The Hellenic Centre, London

The only testimonies we have of how Cyprus looked during the 18th and most of the 19th century are from the works of artists who travelled to the island. Dr Rita Severis, Director of the Costas & Rita Severis Foundation, delivered a lecture on how these art works revealed a panorama of the island, which included the monuments, landscape, flora, architecture and everyday life of the locals.

Organised in collaboration with the Cyprus Tourist Organisation.

The mapping of Cyprus, 1485-1885

📅 25 Sep. 2015

📍 British Library, London

Ashley Baynton-Williams, a fourth generation map dealer, researcher and author, outlined the evolution of the mapping of Cyprus from late medieval times to the first years of the British period, describing the landmarks, the people and the events that shaped the mapping of the island over four centuries. Part of the research material presented was funded by the Sylvia Ioannou Foundation.

“

Ashley Baynton-Williams' lecture was a great opportunity to become acquainted not only with the cartography, but also the history of Cyprus and its people

”

Janet Zmroczek

Head of European and Americas Collections,
British Library





Cyprus: its archaeology and heritage

Effects on politics, identity, tourism and education

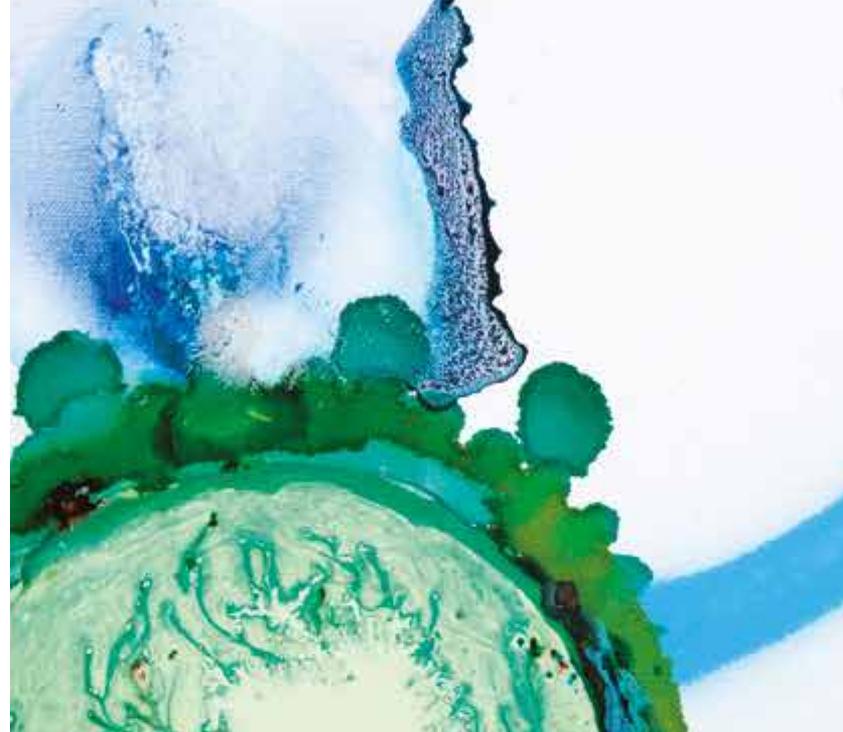
📅 30 Oct. 2015

📍 London Metropolitan University, London

A study day relating to Cypriot archaeology and its multidimensional impact on politics, identity, tourism and education. Participants included a wide range of speakers ranging from renowned academics to school teachers and emerging artists, all seeking to understand how our heritage influences professional, individual and collective identities. Through a diversity of themes and methodologies, Cypriot archaeology and heritage were re-approached and re-examined in a more contemporary context.

Organised in collaboration with the London Metropolitan University and the British Museum.





Invisible Worlds

📅 19 Nov. 2015

📍 Camden Image Gallery, London

Ignatios Mitrophanous, a painter, dealt with the terrible reality of universal and existential chaos by bringing together scientific illustrations of natural phenomena and works of art.

Curated by Efi Kyprianidou.

Wanassa, Kypris, Aphrodite

The Great Goddess of Cyprus

 **16 Oct. 2015**

 **The British Museum, London**

One thousand six hundred years ago, the famous sanctuary of Aphrodite in Palaepaphos was destroyed, but the overtones of her worship continue to resonate through time. To mark Cyprus National Day, the Cyprus High Commission presented the documentary of Stavros Papageorgiou *Wanassa, Kypris, Aphrodite: The Great Goddess of Cyprus*, and *Motherless Beautiful*, artwork by visual artist Yorgos Petrou. Alongside the documentary screening, Yorgos Petrou presented video and photographic work concerning the myth of the birth of Aphrodite and its impact on notions of beauty, desire and love across time, space and civilizations.

“

This screening goes to the heart of our mission to share our wonderful Cypriot collection with the wider public while celebrating our strong ties with our friends in the Cypriot community in the United Kingdom

”

Dr Thomas Kiely

A.G. Leventis Curator of Ancient Cyprus, British Museum





Christmas jazz concert with soprano Katerina Mina

📅 30 Nov. 2015

📍 The Hellenic Centre, London

London based soprano Katerina Mina and musicians Marios Toumbas (piano), Charis Ioannou (saxophone) & Irenaeos Koullouras (double bass) performed a festive programme of Christmas jazz songs.



Visions & Realities

Cypriot experience in the transition from empire

📅 4 Dec. 2015

📍 King's College, Strand Campus, London

The conference was held to honour Professor Robert Holland's acclaimed work on imperial and Commonwealth history in general and the history of Anglo-Hellenic relations in the Eastern Mediterranean and Cyprus in particular.

The conference brought together scholars specializing in modern Cypriot history and created a forum for new findings on the island's colonial and post-colonial experience, with a strong focus on Cyprus' transition from a colony to an independent state.

Organised in collaboration with the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College.

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Highlights

2016

Launch of Reading's Corpus of Cypriot Antiquities

📅 26 Feb. 2016

📍 The Hellenic Centre, London

The event celebrated this publication relating to the 113 Cypriot objects held in Reading Museums. As Prof. Amy Smith, curator of the Ure Museum, demonstrated, these objects ranged from pottery, lamps and metalwork to ceramic and stone sculpture, all donated to the museums during the 20th century.



Visit of EUNIC representatives to the A.G. Leventis Gallery at the Fitzwilliam Museum

📅 22 Mar. 2016

📍 Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

As a leading member of the network European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) in London, the Cyprus High Commission's Cultural Section provided an opportunity for foreign diplomats and representatives of cultural institutions to learn about the history and archaeology of Cyprus from the Bronze Age until the Roman period through a private tour at the A.G. Leventis Cyriot collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum. The tour was led by the Cyprus Curator-Assistant Keeper and co-acting Head of Antiquities at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou.

“

The Fitzwilliam Museum was delighted to receive the delegation of the cultural ambassadors of the European Union, which took the form of a mutually benefitting 'study day'

”

Tim Knox

Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum





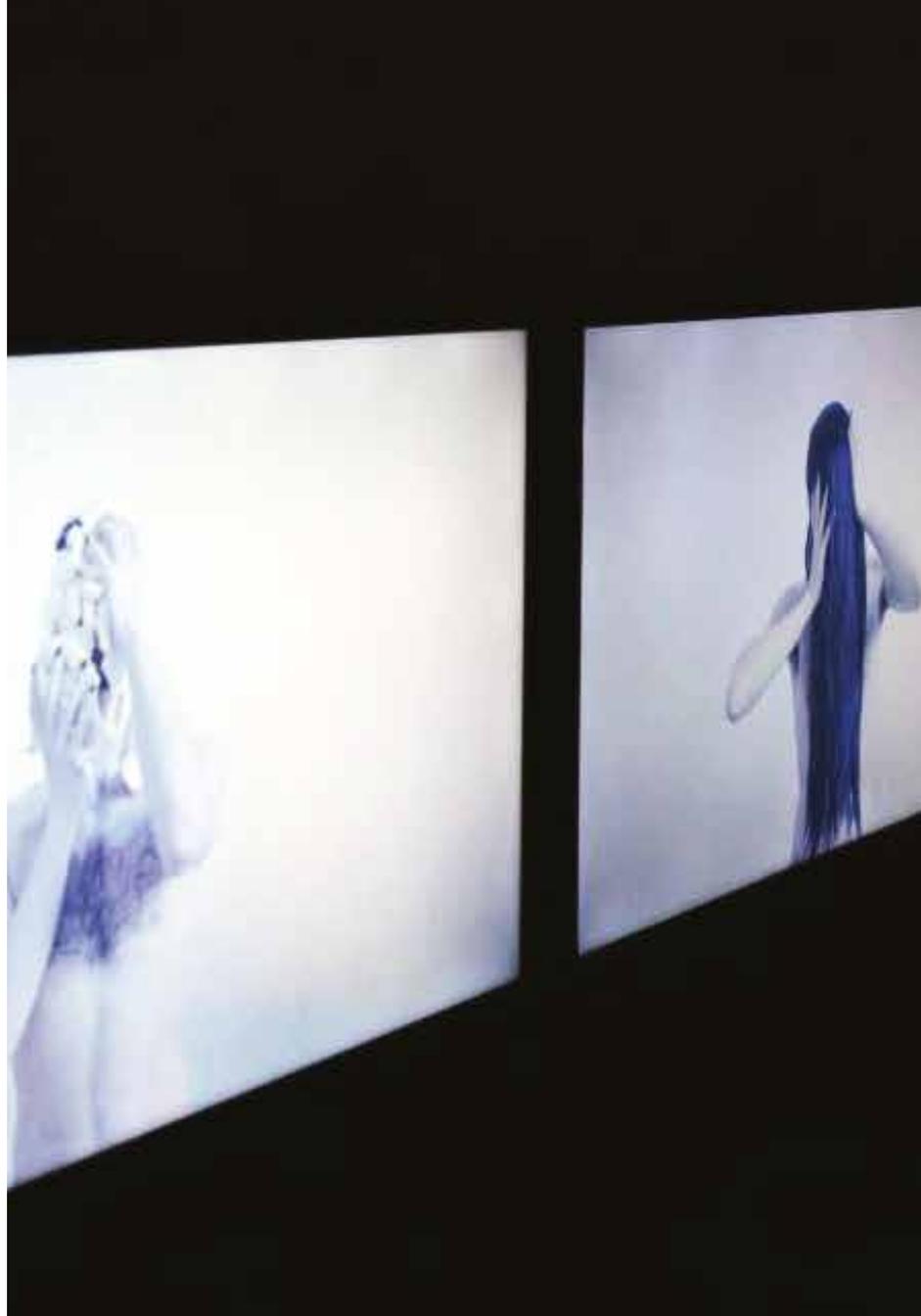


Relapse: Identity

 **28 Apr. 2016**

 **Birkbeck College, Peltz Gallery, London**

The first exhibition of the new art collective RELAPSE with guest artist Penelope Koliopoulou. The exhibition, curated by Dr Gabriel Koureas of Birkbeck College, focused on the concept of identity as constructed and performed through social rituals and its embodied, visceral manifestations. The public was invited to take a step back and join the artists in a ritual of self-observation. A lecture by Prof. Constantinos Phellas from the University of Nicosia on *Identity Development Among Ethnic Minority Lesbians and Gay Men* concluded the exhibition.



12 Préludes

📅 3 Jun. 2016

📍 The Hellenic Centre, London

A unique concert dedicated to the music of the contemporary composer Dr Constantinos Stylianou who has dazzled audiences worldwide with audacious works such as the opera *Picknick im Felde* and moving song cycles such as *L'Or et l'Ombre*. The concert featured a selection from the cycle *12 Préludes* for solo piano, each one inspired by a work of art, performed by the acclaimed pianist Eleni Mavromoustaki. She was joined by violinist Victoria Mavromoustaki in the UK premiere of Stylianou's *Violin Sonata*. The concert was preceded by a short but thought-provoking panel discussion on the multi-faceted relationship between music and the visual arts, chaired by the composer and with the participation of the artist Frixos Papantoniou and pianist-musicologist Dr Nicolas Constantinou.



Time and Space

📅 7 Jun. 2016

📍 Europe House, 12 Star Gallery, London

Time and space have a strong impact on our emotions and behaviour. For the participating Cypriot artists, Frixos Papantoniou and Sumer Ere, this context provided the energy to create unique results using a variety of media.







(Re)Framing Identities

 **8 Jul. 2016**

 **Cyprus High Commission, London**

The exhibition presented a selection of works from students of St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School, years 7, 8 and 9, giving a fresh perspective on the shaping of our private and collective identities.

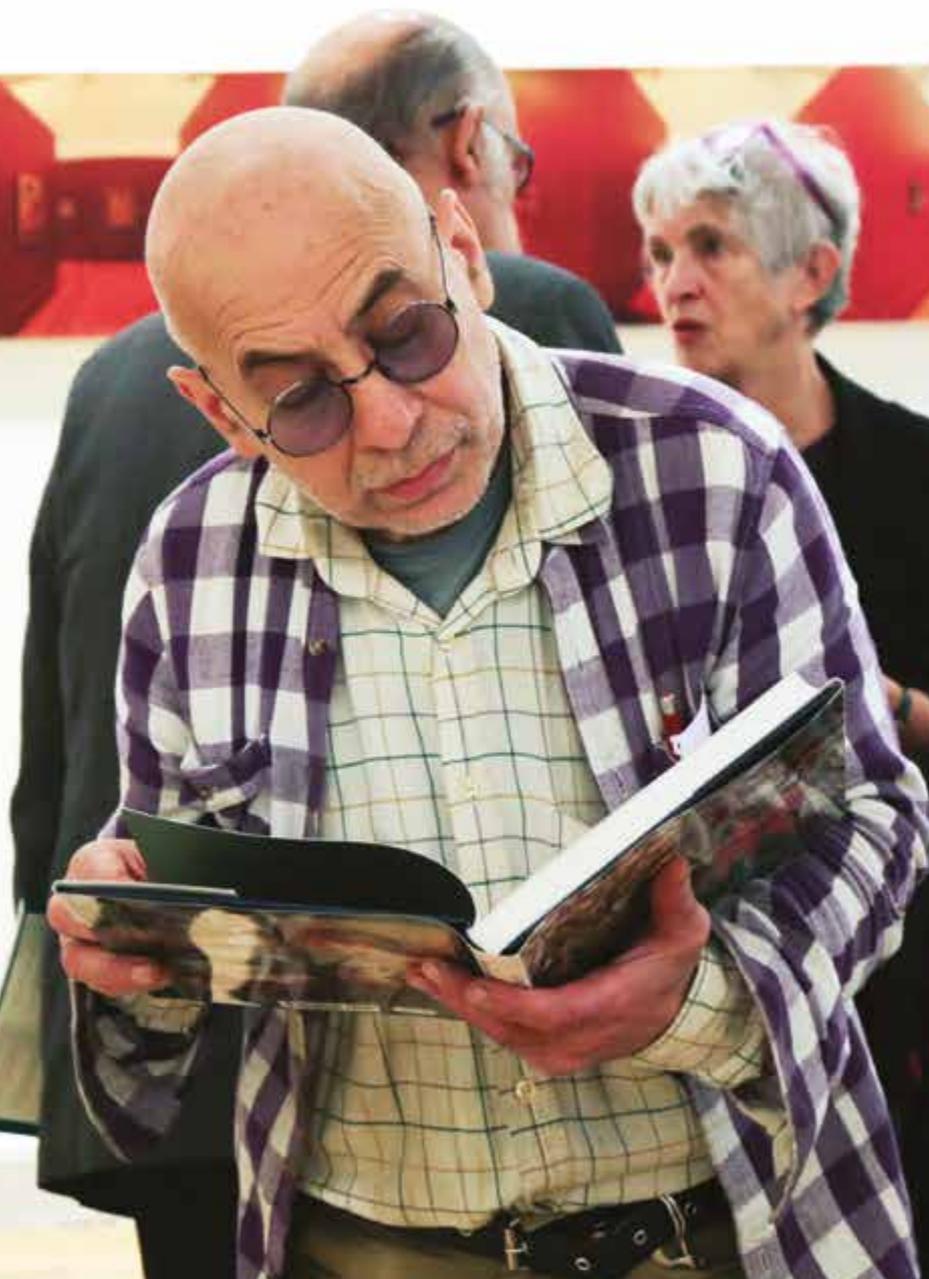
Greeks and Cypriots in the United Kingdom, 1815-2015

Culture, commerce and politics

📅 14-15 Oct. 2016

📍 The Hellenic Centre, London

This two-day conference provided an opportunity for researchers studying the history of the Greek and Cypriot communities in the United Kingdom to come together and present their work. Papers covered a broad range of topics including social and political history, and diaspora studies. The conference was co-organised by the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies at Royal Holloway, University of London, the Cyprus High Commission and the Embassy of Greece, with the support of the Hellenic Centre.



Macbeth: Without Words

📅 14-29 Aug. 2016

📍 Zoo Venue, Edinburgh

Macbeth: Without Words was a production by Ludens Ensemble that had travelled to Cyprus in November 2015 as part of the events organised by Pafos, European Capital of Culture 2017. The performance was then staged in Edinburgh at the Manipulate Visual Theatre Festival 2016 and received two four star reviews (Herald Scotland, Edinburgh49). The Edinburgh Fringe run in 2016 was organised by the Cyprus High Commission in London.

“

A compelling, highly intelligent and creative retelling of the famous story

Steve Griffin
Edinburgh49

”

“

Remarkable...essential viewing when it returns for a Fringe Festival run

Neil Cooper
Herald Scotland

”





Cyprus: A Culinary Journey

📅 26 Oct. 2016

📍 The Hellenic Centre, London

Photography exhibition by Anja Jahn and Markus Bassler with images from the multi-award-winning cookbook *Cyprus: A Culinary Journey* published by Marianne Salentin-Trager.





Gender equality and women's empowerment: The case of Cyprus

📅 5 Dec. 2016

📍 King's College, Strand Campus, London

The under-representation of women in all fields of citizens' activity is a well-documented fact in many countries. In this lecture, Prof. Mary Koutselini of the University of Cyprus and UNESCO Chair Holder for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, provided insights into the representation of women in Cyprus with emphasis on their under-representation in positions of power. The presentation also highlighted the need for the development of a dialogue between men and women on the implementation of policies that can change the culture of women's perceived inferiority.

Part of the *Cyprus Lecture Series* organised in collaboration with the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College.

Development of postal communication in Cyprus, from the 14th to the 20th century

📅 23 Sep. 2016

📍 British Library, London

In this lecture Paul Skinner, Lead Curator of Philatelic Collections at the British Library, provided a detailed description of the conditions and development of postal routes to and from Cyprus, reflecting upon the growth of commercial activity and the population. Special emphasis was placed on Austrian and British post offices that had operated in Cyprus.

“

I am delighted to add my support to these exciting and important initiatives which provide important insights and context and build upon the special relationship between the British Library and our friends and colleagues in Cyprus

”

Patrick Fleming

Director of Development, The British Library





“

An inspiring event that focused on the relevance of the discipline of archaeology to current societal debates ... typical of the interdisciplinary nature of cultural events offered by the Cyprus High Commission

”

Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou
Cyprus Curator-Assistant Keeper and Co-Acting
Head of Antiquities, Fitzwilliam Museum

“

The ground beneath our feet was a wonderful opportunity to explore the impact of archaeology and museums on artistic creativity in the modern world and to showcase the achievements of four accomplished artists from Cyprus

”

Lesley Fitton
Keeper of the Department of
Greece and Rome, British Museum





The ground beneath our feet

Four artists from Cyprus discuss archaeology and contemporary art

 **30 Sep. 2016**

 **British Museum, London**

Is reconstructing the past as speculative as constructing the future? Exploring the politics and poetics of archaeological finds, four prominent artists from Cyprus, Alev Adil, Haris Epaminonda, Maria Loizidou, and Christodoulos Panayiotou, discussed the 'archaeological turn' in contemporary Cypriot art. Developed by Christina Lambrou and Elena Parpa, the artists' talks were followed by a round-table discussion chaired by Dr Gabriel Koureas of Birkbeck College, University of London.

Cyprus Short Film Day 2016

📅 2 Oct. 2016

📍 The Hellenic Centre, London

CSFD 2016 was the first official Cypriot short film event to take place in London. It featured Cypriot short films that had won awards at the National Competition of the International Short Film Festival of Cyprus 2015, as well as video and film shorts by UK-based Cypriot artists and filmmakers. The screenings were followed by a Q&A session with a panel of filmmakers and film scholars.

“ ***CSFD 2016* has achieved its primary goals, through the constructive exchange of views that we had with the audience** ”

Yannis Kokkinos
Actor and producer

“ ***Cyprus Short Film Day* has been one of the most well-executed and organized film screening events I have attended** ”

Renos Gavris
Filmmaker

CYPRUS
SHORT
FILM
DAY.



LONDON 2016



The Hellenic
16-18 F
14



6

Highlights

2017

The Third Country: My Little Odyssey

📅 16 Mar. 2017

📍 Cyprus High Commission, London

Dr Dalia Staponkutė is an award-winning Lithuanian author living in Cyprus for more than two decades. Her latest book, *The Third Country: My Little Odyssey*, provides a thought-provoking and self-reflective perspective on the deconstruction of nationality, class and gender identity in Cyprus and Lithuania. Her book presentation in London was organised in collaboration with the Lithuanian Embassy and Lithuanian Cultural Institute and was set under the joint auspices of the High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus H.E. Euripides L. Evriviades and the Ambassador of Lithuania in the UK, H.E. Asta Skaisgirytė.



“

Enormously stimulating; a model of matching academic analysis and high visual impact

”

Robert Holland

Emeritus Professor of Commonwealth History,
Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London

“

Dr Hadjikyriacou gave us a beautifully illustrated lecture, at once based on rigorous research and presented in such a manner as to engage the non-specialist as well as professional academics

”

Roderick Beaton

Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine
History, Language and Literature - Director,
Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London





Deconstructing patriarchy in post-war Greek cinema and society

A socio-historical reading of Cacoyannis' *Stella* (1955)

📅 30 Jan. 2017

📍 King's College, London

The years following the end of the Greek Civil War in 1949 initiated a new era for Greece that led the country through tremendous political, economic and social transformation. Inevitably, these changes had a strong impact on gender identities and relations, as well as on their representations in the film productions of the time. In this lecture Dr Achilleas Hadjikyriacou highlighted the ways in which Greek cinema could be examined as a cultural institution influenced by, and influencing, the socio-historical context within which it operated. To this end, his presentation focused on one of the most memorable films of the 1950s, Michalis Cacoyannis' *Stella* (1955).

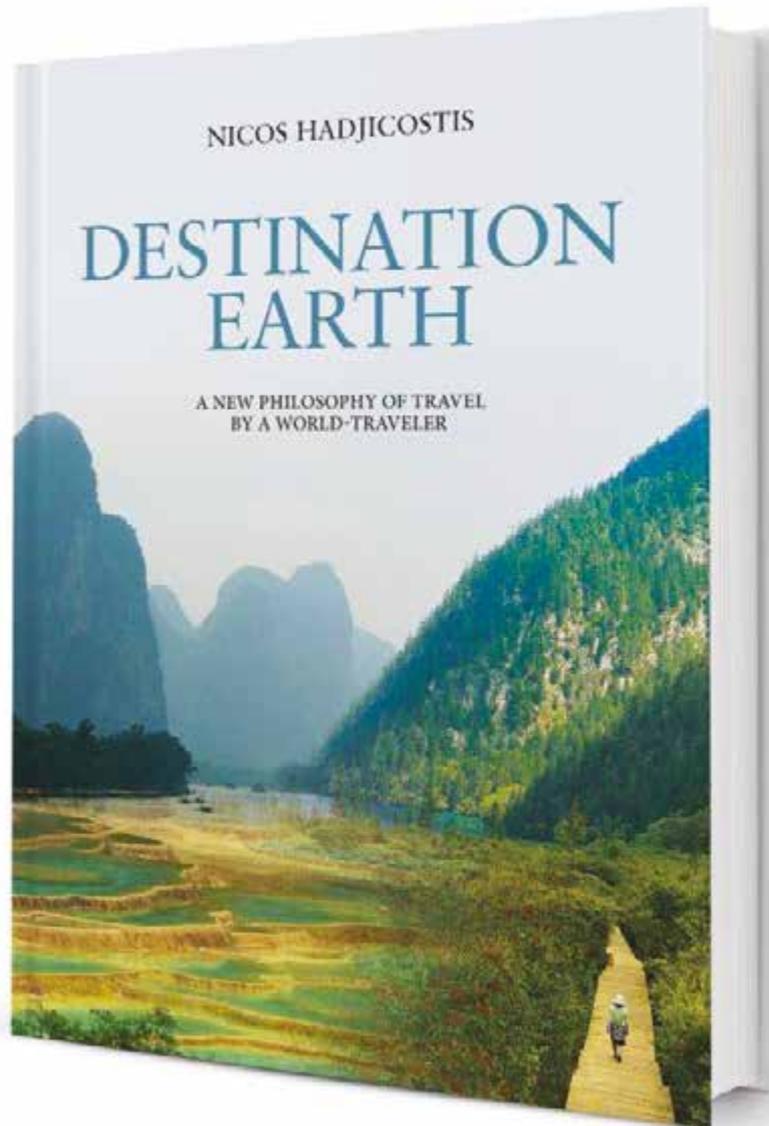
Light and Shadow

📅 20 Apr. 2017

📍 The Hellenic Centre, London

An evening of Greek and French songs from the contemporary Cypriot composer Dr Constantinos Stylianou, performed by Zoe Nicolaidou, soprano, and Dr Nicolas Costantinou, pianist. The programme included the UK premiere of collaborations with poets Vasilis Koumis and Marcus Hediger.





Destination Earth

**A New Philosophy of Travel
by a World-Traveler**

 **16 May 2017**

 **Cyprus High Commission, London**

Nicos Hadjicostis is a Cypriot writer who recently published his first book, *Destination Earth*, an account of his 6 and a half year journey around the world, during which he visited 70 countries across 6 continents. Throughout his extensive travels, Hadjicostis' aim was to explore the world as if it were one huge country, a single destination. The book proposes a new philosophy that addresses the transformative element of travel and its relation to the totality of life.

Four Seasons: A concert for Cyprus

📅 **21 Feb. 2017**

📍 **Church of St Martin in the Fields, London**

Cyprus' first participation in the prestigious *Embassy Series Concerts* at the church of St Martin in the Fields. The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by their founder Dr Marios Papadopoulos, presented classic and contemporary works by Christodoulos Georgiades (Winter and Spring), Astor Piazzolla (Autumn) and Antonio Vivaldi (Summer and Winter).

“
A thoroughly enjoyable concert. The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Dr Marios Papadopoulos delivered a varied menu of classical and contemporary works, to their customary excellent standards
”

Anastasios P. Leventis
Chairman, A. G. Leventis Foundation









Visit of EUNIC representatives to the A. G. Leventis Gallery at the Ashmolean Museum

 **17 May 2017**

 **Ashmolean Museum, Oxford**

Members of the European Union National Institutes for Culture network in London (EUNIC), including senior diplomats and heads of cultural organisations, had the opportunity to learn about the history, archaeology and culture of Cyprus through the Cypriot collection of antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. The tour was led by Dr Anja Ulbrich, the A.G. Leventis curator of Cypriot Antiquities at the Ashmolean.

syn[chrono]sides

📅 7 Jun. 2017

📍 The Hellenic Centre, London

syn[chrono]sides is an artists' book made by Maria Ikononopoulou and Anastasia Mina, comprising six abstract drawings from each artist and one together. It is a double-sided book the front and back covers of which are interchangeable. The artists began at opposite ends of the book and met in the middle, creating there a joint drawing. The work consists of repeated single units that form geometric and organic patterns. Anastasia Mina and Maria Ikononopoulou, based in London and Rotterdam respectively, worked for a year together corresponding and exchanging drawings resulting in the formation of this book.

“

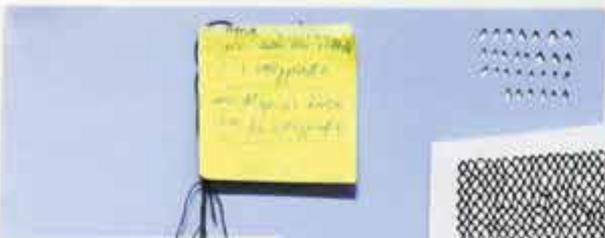
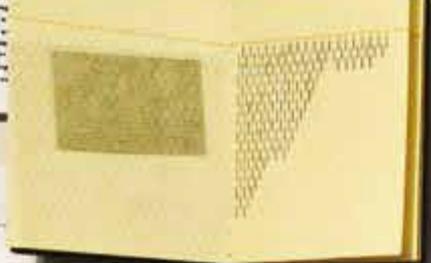
Unlike traditional literature which is based on text, *syn[chrono]sides* is an amalgam of repetitive organic and geometric shapes. By being synchronically exotic and indigenous to Greek language, these patterns constitute an integral part of our identity, of our collective and individual psyche

”

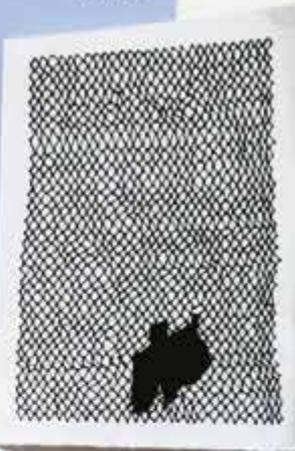
Agatha Kalisperas

Director of the Hellenic Centre London

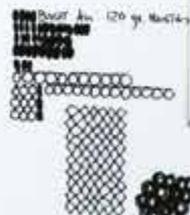




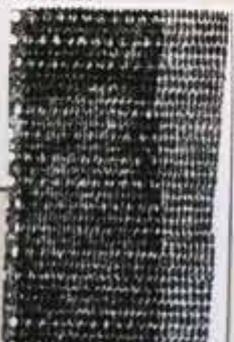
Handwritten notes on a yellow sticky note.



Handwritten notes in Greek, including phrases like 'Ηλεκτρονική', 'Προγραμματισμός', and 'Αλγόριθμοι'.



Handwritten notes in Greek, including '120 γραμμών' and 'αριθμοί'.





Ubu Roi

📅 2-27 Aug. 2017

📍 Summerhall Pl, Edinburgh

A multimedia theatre performance and a ludic study of the workings of power in which four actors become part of an ensemble. The work incorporates puppetry, video mapping projections and live music to create the sensation of the carnivalesque.

Ubu's run at the Edinburgh Fringe 2017 was co-produced by Ludens Ensemble and Adjust Productions and organised by the Cyprus High Commission.

“

Wilfully messy...in a way that gives Juvenalia a good name

”

Neil Cooper
Herard Scotland

“

Brilliant...unpredictable as its 19th-century predecessor

”

Becca Inglis
TV Bomb

Cyprus Short Film Day 2017

📅 1 Oct. 2017

📍 The May Fair Hotel, London

CSFD is an annual event organised by the Cyprus High Commission under the artistic direction of Dr Marios Psaras to celebrate Cypriot cinema and to provide a platform to enable emerging Cypriot filmmakers to communicate and network. The overarching theme for 2017 was *Deconstructing Masculinities*. Issues regarding the elements forming our gender identity, behaviours, social norms and stereotypes were scrutinised through their filmic representations. A panel discussion with filmmakers and film scholars followed the screenings.



“

Cyprus Short Film Day has been a very constructive experience. Continuing CSFD may significantly facilitate collaborations between professionals and investors in both countries (Cyprus and UK)

”

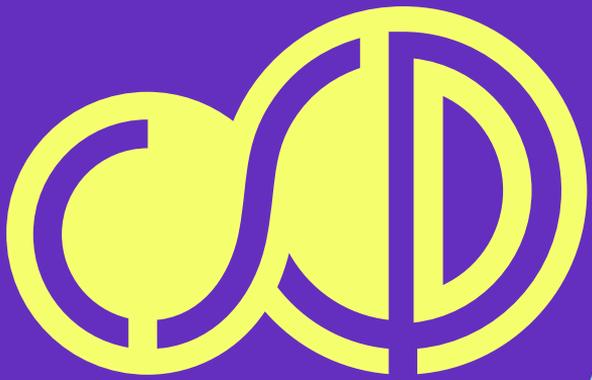
Christina Georgiou
Filmmaker

“

Cyprus Short Film Day has been established as an important annual cinematic event, which provides Cypriot filmmakers with a solid platform to expand their professional and artistic networks and activities

”

Dr Marios Psaras
CSFD Artistic director



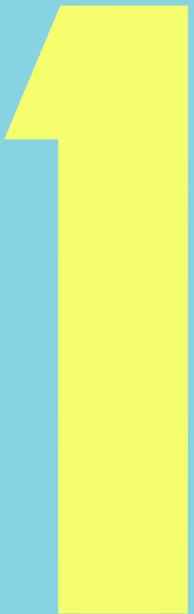
*let's
talk
about
men*



CYPRUS
SHORT
FILM
DAY.

OCT.

2017



“

A most enjoyable and informative evening, with the archaeological sites of Cyprus itself, as birthplace of Aphrodite, exceedingly well portrayed

”

Anastasios P. Leventis

Chairman, A. G. Leventis Foundation





The Story of Aphrodite

📅 2 Oct. 2017

📍 British Museum, London

Historian and broadcaster Dr Bettany Hughes presented a special screening of her landmark documentary *The Story of Aphrodite*. The film investigates the archaeology of the goddess' birthplace in Cyprus. Using historical and archaeological evidence, Dr Hughes sheds new light onto Aphrodite's origins and enduring ability to inspire and excite successive generations. The event also highlighted the goddess' diachronic influence on international cultural production, epitomized by the ability of her myth to inspire artists worldwide. This interaction between Greek mythology and the arts was reflected in the music prologue to the documentary screening, Niccolò Paganini's *Nel Cor Più Non Mi Sento*, performed by Dr George Zacharias, Lecturer in Music at the Royal Academy of Music and Concert Violinist.

The documentary was supported by the A. G. Leventis Foundation.

33° 3' 45" East

📅 23 Nov. 2017

📍 Cyprus High Commission, London

33° 3' 45" East was the culmination of research that visual artist Yorgos Petrou and ancient historian Dr Ersin Hussein had undertaken, independently and together, on the themes of geological stratification and identity formation. Whilst preparing for this event they also paused to consider the nature of their collaborative work; their conversation and archive were also available for viewing. Yorgos and Ersin are both based in the UK and regularly travel to Cyprus to produce work and to conduct research in their respective fields. The exhibition was accompanied by a text by art historian Thomas Frangenberg.

“

An innovative and intriguing approach to combining two very different media. The photographs of the landscape were very arresting and brought the visitor into contact with an extraordinary and, in many respects, disturbing landscape

”

Victoria Hislop

Bestselling author of *The Island*, *The Sunrise* and *Cartes Postales from Greece*



“
A prosaic but compelling exhibition that went to the heart of the matter that is Cyprus’ geology
”

Roy Stephenson
London’s Historic Environment Lead,
Museum of London

“
In dialogue with Dr Ersin Hussein, Yorgos Petrou combines the arts of photography, painting, drawing and sculpture in demonstrations of superb craftsmanship. He deconstructs the self and in the combination of artistic media reconstructs an evocative and “polyphonic” self
”

Natasha Lemos
Hellenic Centre

A glimpse into 2018

A twofold vision is set for 2018, which builds upon and simultaneously expands the previous years' programme. Emphasis will be placed on the widening of the polythematic axis of our activities by focusing on interdisciplinary projects. Furthermore, in 2018 we aim to expand our existing network to include more individuals and organisations that share our views on the importance of culture as an agent of change. This ethos accords with the statement by the renowned 20th century conductor, composer and pianist Leonard Bernstein about the true value of art:

“

The point is, art never stopped a war and never got anybody a job. That was never its function. Art cannot change events. But it can change people. It can affect people so that they are changed... because people are changed by art – enriched, ennobled, encouraged – they then act in a way that may affect the course of events... by the way they vote, they behave, the way they think

”

Gruen, John, “Leonard Bernstein”

Los Angeles Times, December 31, 1972

At the time of writing this review, our programme for the first half of 2018 had been submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus and some of the scheduled events have already taken place.

On 22nd January Dr Petros Karatsareas, University of Westminster, gave a public lecture at King's College London, entitled *'Good' and 'Bad' Greek in a heritage language setting: transplanted diglossia in London's Greek Cypriot parikia*. Dr Karatsareas explored the notions of linguistic (im)properness and (in)correctness among London's Greek Cypriot parikia ('expatriate community'), focussing on attitudes towards Standard and Cypriot Greek. This lecture was the third in the Cyprus Lectures Series organised in collaboration with the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College on an annual basis.

On 20th February a public lecture was given at the Cyprus High Commission by Professor Vasiliki Kassianidou, Director of the Archaeological Research Unit at the University of Cyprus, entitled *'In Cyprus where copper was first discovered...'* (Pliny, *Natural History* XXXIV. 2-4). Taking Pliny's statement as a starting point, Prof. Kassianidou examined the social, cultural and geopolitical importance of the production of, and trade in, copper to the island's economy from ancient to present times.

In March, the Cyprus High Commission will participate in a joint art project with the University of Arts London (UAL) entitled *A real job is to make something*. The project will be based in a former textiles factory in Haringey, London and will highlight the history and contributions of the Cypriot community in the area. The curators of this show, Margot Bannerman and Anna Hart will invite artists from different backgrounds and practices to explore labour, migration and memory. The project is supported by the Arts Council England.

In April, the theatre play *Andronikos* or “*The Painter*” will be hosted at the Hellenic Centre as a collaborative project between the Cyprus High Commission and the Leventis Scholars Association in Cyprus. The play takes the form of a monologue on stage and is inspired by the life of Costas Stathis, one of the most important yet largely unknown Cypriot artists of the 20th century.

Two exciting cultural events are coming up in May. The first is an art exhibition in Edinburgh by the visual artist Leontios Toumpouris. The show will focus on the qualities and characteristics of emblems produced during the 16th and the 17th centuries in Scotland. The artist will examine a variety of approaches and focus on the production of a series of self-referential emblems where matter obtains its own voice and suggests a cryptic language that derives from itself.

The second event in May, which signals the end of our cultural program for the first half of 2018, draws upon our emphasis on contemporary cinema production during the past 2 years. Whereas in 2016 and 2017 our film events comprised only short films, in 2018 we intend to branch out to include feature films. In this sense, *Cyprus Film Day 2018* will be the first of its kind. It will be hosted at the same venue as in 2017 (The May Fair Hotel, London) and we hope it will provide a more inclusive platform for communication, networking, and exchange of ideas among filmmakers and film lovers alike.



Acknowledgements

The content of this review is the result of a collective effort. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the people and organisations that contributed to our cultural programme during the past four years.

For their professionalism, support, trust and guidance we would like to express our gratitude to His Excellency the High Commissioner of Cyprus in the UK, Euripides L. Evriviades, and the Director of the Cultural Services at the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus, Mr Pavlos Paraskevas. Their commitment to and belief in the soft power of culture as an agent of education and change has been the cornerstone of our cultural agenda.

For sharing our vision and joining forces on many collaborative events we are grateful to Mrs Agatha Kalisperas, director of the Hellenic Centre in London, Dr Thomas Kiely, curator of Ancient Cyprus, A.G. Leventis Gallery at the British Museum, Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou, Cyprus Curator-Assistant Keeper and co-acting Head of Antiquities at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Dr Anja Ulbrich, curator of A.G. Leventis Gallery at the Ashmolean Museum, Prof. Roderick Beaton, Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature at King's College London, Jeremy O' Sullivan, Cultural Attaché at the Representation of European Commission in London, Prof. David Holton, Emeritus Professor of Modern Greek at the University of Cambridge, Dr Gabriel Koureas, Senior Lecturer in Visual and Material Culture at Birkbeck College and Dr Charalambos Dendrinou, Senior Lecturer in Byzantine Literature and Greek Palaeography and Director of The Hellenic Institute at Royal Holloway, University of London. Mention must also be made of the significant contribution of the late Chris Michaelides, curator of the Italian and Modern Greek Section of the British Library.

We would also like to highlight the contribution of Mrs Christina Yiangou, administrative officer responsible for the Cultural Offices of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus in diplomatic missions. Her promptness and positive energy helped enormously in resolving complicated matters quickly and efficiently.

Special thanks also go to Mr Tony Gerolemou and Mr Nick Panteli for their "in-kind" donations in connection with the upgrading of our premises.

We would like to extend our thanks also to the artists Michael Mina, Frixos Papantoniou and Sumer Erek, who kindly provided some of their works on long loans to our diplomatic mission and to Mr Doros Partasides, cameraman of the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, for the TV coverage of the majority of our events.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr Fotis Petrou for the inspiration, implementation and maintenance of our digital infrastructure and online presence.



Text: Achilleas Hadjikyriacou

Edit: Helen Michael

Design: Anchor

Photography: Anastasios Anastasi
Stephen Blunt
Charalambos Charalambous
Katerina Kalogeraki
Doros Partasides
Petros Pentayiotis
Jamie Smith



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CULTURAL SECTION
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