

MYTHS & REALITIES

Open Galleries Abroad (the international branch of [Cyprus Open Studios](#))
9th to 30th May 2018 - [The Hellenic Centre](#)

'Myths and Realities' features works of selected Cyprus-resident or Cyprus-inspired artists using a variety of mediums and styles. Its aim is to challenge, to amuse and to inspire dialogue.

Myths are the stories people tell to explain nature, history, science and customs. Mythologizing portrays a culture's shared experience, societal truth or even tells a cautionary tale. It creates a sense of belonging. It is a feature of every culture.

Myths remain at the centre of many modern religions, of both national and economic ideologies and individual everyday lives. Although myths can help shape our culture, they represent something that is generally accepted but untrue. Only by bringing 'reality' to light can myths be dispelled.

The Exhibition considers intertwining themes; it juxtaposes fact and fiction, reality and myth. Whether documenting a journey, exploring and responding to places or using historical facts, the artists search for warmth, movement, mystery and balance and to elicit an emotional response from the viewer.

The exhibition is sponsored by EFG.

The Curator

Practising artist and curator, Marina Emphietzi has been trained at the Dubai International Arts Centre and later at Central St Martin's London.

She spent the better part of a decade actively and collaboratively organizing art events, curating exhibitions and exhibiting her own work in solo and group exhibitions internationally.

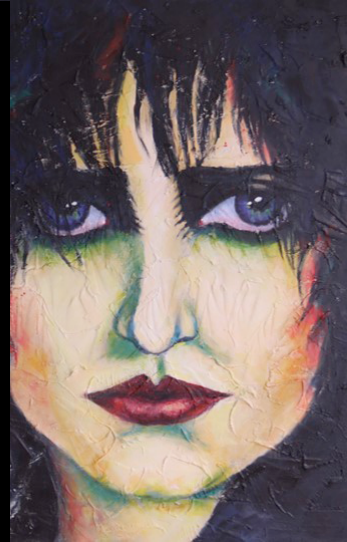
In 2015 she co-founded the Cyprus Open Studios and the Open Galleries Abroad representing artists outside Cyprus.





Katja Tonja

Katja enjoys abstract, portrait and figurative art. She hates restrictions and has an occasional need to divert to landscapes, still life, etc. In her work emotional engagement is hugely important. She loves vibrant colours and uses them freely to reflect the influence of long summers and the sunny and warm climate of Cyprus.



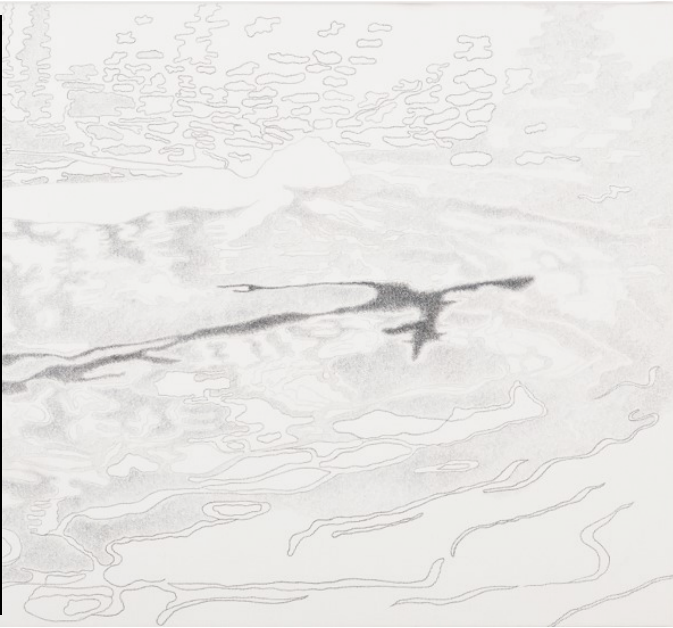
Monica Demetriades

Monica trained at the prestigious Hornsey College of Art, later to become Middlesex University during the colourful 70's. Monica Demetriades is now a renowned British Cypriot Artist with over thirty years of experience in her field. Her work has been highly valued worldwide.



Elena Kouma

Elena's work is inspired by the water, the source of life. It is characterized by two elements; the liquid element and the human figure. Water is a symbol of cleansing, regeneration and purification. The idea is to lead the viewer away from a pragmatic view of the things to a more spiritual dimension.



Jivan Hovhannisian

Armenian artist – designer.

Andreas Makariou

Andreas was born in Letymbou Paphos and is considered one of the major Cypriot painters of his generation. He gained a scholarship at the School of Fine Arts in Moscow Zourik of Painting Department Artamonof and Monumental Painting in Toutedol Monumental Art Department. He also dealt with the monumental art creating works in conjunction with the architecture in monumental frescoes, mosaics, reliefs and metal sculptures in public buildings, museums, schools, airports and hotels. With solo and group exhibitions in Cyprus and abroad, he highlighted his work for which he was honoured internationally winning major awards and distinctions. museums, public collections and in various institutions around the world.





Aristi Hadjisava

A self taught artist, who loves working with oils on canvas. Her main work consists of figures and portraits and her themes are taken from life.





Mazarine Memon

A celebrated, award-winning and eccentric artist, Mazarine has had several sold-out solo and group exhibitions around the world. She has an avid following of collectors and her works have found pride of place all over the world.

www.mazarinememon.com



Elena Sarri Varnava

Born in Famagusta, Cyprus, Elena studied Marketing and Advertising in England and then attended the Foundation Course in Arts at the Leicester Polytechnic. She attended group art classes in Limassol under the well-known artist and art professor Helene Black.

Elena's favourite subject has been and will always be people.

The emotions that a person stirs within the artist are the driving force and energy behind starting and creating a painting. These intense feelings become her palette of colours.

elenavarnava.com



Marina Emphietzi

Marina's work explores issues of time, life and memory.

'As the call of the sea is strong and I very often feel an urge to spend time within sight or sound of the water my personal challenge is to create scenes that evoke feelings and emotions; as if I am there on that beach where I grew up, where I can still feel my toes walking on the warm sand and where sometimes the wind brushes my face as I ran against it.'

For the artist water symbolizes life, time, happiness, sadness, dreams and often the energy that surrounds us.

Marina is an expressionist landscape and seascape artist who trained at the renowned Dubai International Arts Centre and Central St Martin's, London. She also served as Arts Advisory member for the Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre and is the Curator of the Art Festival of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia since 2011.

Her work is in private collections and at the Nicosia Municipal gallery. She is represented by Galleries in Cyprus, London and Dubai.

www.marinaemphietzi.com

