



ΔΙΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΗ  
Έκθεση Τέχνης

İki toplumlu  
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ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΠΟΝΟ  
στην ΕΛΠΙΔΑ

Acıdan  
Umuda...



TOGETHER WE CAN  
MAZI MİHOPOYME  
BİRLİKTE BAŞARILIRIZ

## The 12 Artists

Twelve Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot artists join their brushstrokes to reflect the human Pain of all Cypriots and how it can be healed and transformed into Hope. With paintings and ceramics, the exhibition aims to speak to the hearts of Cypriots and promote empathy for the pain that the war and intercommunal conflicts have caused to ordinary people of the two communities. A pain that is not forgotten but at the same time the way to heal it is found so that future generations of Cypriots do not choose the path of conflict but that of communication and peaceful coexistence.

**Curators:** Fotos Dimitriou and Nilgün Güney

**Artists:** Nilgün Güney, Fotos Dimitriou, Daphne Trimikliniotes, Christos Kakoullis (CRS), Yıldan Sedef Gülakdeniz, Vassos Demetriou, Derviş Özer, Michalis Kirlitsias (late), George Gavriel, Aliye Gündoğdu, Aydan Lisaniler and Eda Gökçe.

**Organizers:** Rapprochement Bureau of AKEL in collaboration with "Together We Can" and the "Cultural Movement"



### Nilgün Güney

Nilgün Güney was born in 1952 as an artist, she is the daughter of the first professional Turkish Cypriot artist İsmet V. Güney who had designed the flag of the Republic of Cyprus.

Nilgün graduated with master's degree in Graphics from İstanbul State Arts Academy in 1976 and she taught art, history of art and graphic design at the secondary schools in Cyprus between 1977 and 1998.

She had 11 solo exhibitions between 1983 and 2023.

She joined exhibitions in Cyprus, Turkey, London, Belgium, France, Spain and Austria in 1981-2022.

Her book of stories called "Başka Bir Yerden" ("From another place") was published in 1992.

She participated in workshops of landscape drawing and painting of UFASCSI in 1993 and in 1998, in Holsözter-Austria, in "Between orient and oxidant art workshop" directed by Anton Nussbichler.

In 2002 she was the founder of "European-Mediterranean Arts Association" (EMAA) and worked as president and executive board member until 2008. During this time she organised bicomunal art events with EKATE like "Out of line" art performances at the Ledra Palace buffer zone area, "From sunrise to sunset" camping with artists, workshop and exhibitions, artist's slide show in EKATE building and similar activities.

She joined the bicomunal art exhibition "Open Horizons" of EKATE at Melina Mercury exhibition hall in Nicosia in 2003. In the same year, she participated at the bicomunal art event "Shared Echoes" (dance, music and drawing) directed by Horst W. at Kastelliodisa, Nicosia. In the same year she participated at the Christmas Art Exhibition at Amorgos Gallery, Nicosia.

In 2004, she joined the "Women in art bicomunal art exhibition" at the Gallery En Plo in Paphos.

In 2004 and 2005, she directed voluntarily "Art Aware I. And Art Aware II" multi-communal art events in Nicosia as president of EMAA.

In 2005, she organised and joined the "Island/Border" EMAA group exhibition in Nicosia.

In 2007 she set up an Art Studio and Art Cafe ("Atölye Cadı Kazanı Café") within the walled city of Nicosia.

In 2012-2013, she voluntarily directed the bicomunal art workshop and exhibition together with the investigative journalist Sevgül Uludağ entitled "The Color of Truth" about missing persons and mass graves in Cyprus.

In 2014 she voluntarily directed an art workshop and exhibition called "Kafkaesque" - reading/discussion and creating art in Nicosia.

In 2015, she voluntarily directed an art workshop and exhibition entitled "Return to life with brushes" with recovering drug addicted young people.

In the field of graphic design, she has published posters, logotyps, postage stamps, book and magazine covers.

She has prizes, honor certificates, plaquets given for her work from different organisations.

In 2017, the Embassy of the Slovakia Republic together with bicomunal political parties under its auspices gave her a plaque of thanks for her voluntary humanitarian work on 'Missing Persons in Cyprus' and for her help in healing the wounds through the Bicomunal Association of Relatives of Missing Persons and Victims of war; Together We Can.

She has published, articles and short stories in magazines.

In 2022, she was awarded by Ishik Bookstore with the IV. Literature and Art Award at the 34th Book Fair.



### Fotos Demetriou

Fotos Dimitriou was born in Famagusta, Cyprus, in 1955. He studied Porcelain and Ceramics at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (1976-1983), earning the title of Academic Sculptor (Master of Arts). Since 1983, he has been based in Larnaca, where he works from his art studio.

Throughout his career, Fotos has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Cyprus and internationally, showcasing his work in Italy, Malta, Belgium, Greece, Australia, France, Germany, and Egypt. Notably, he won third prize at the Pan-Hellenic Ceramic Exhibition in both 1995 and 1999. His talent was further recognized with invitations to the Cairo International Ceramics Biennale (2000) and the Design Biennale in Saint Etienne, France (2001).

His art is distinguished by his innovative use of diverse materials, including clay, glass, bronze, fiberglass, industrial wire, and wood. His works, often inspired by the human figure and nature, explore themes of connection and imagination. Through his art, he creates an open dialogue between humans, birds, and other creatures, blending the real and the imaginary.



## Dafne Mavrounioti Triminikliniotis

Born in Cyprus, in Limassol in 1945,

She immigrated to London in 1959 where she lived for 35 years. There she studied art at Hornsey College of Art, Middlesex University. London. In the British capital she developed significant social and artistic activity and became known to the Cypriot community of London through various exhibitions and events.

She returned to Cyprus in 1996, where she lived and worked for several years. In recent years she has divided her time between Limassol and London.

She has 16 solo exhibitions and numerous group exhibitions to her credit, in Cyprus, London, Greece, etc. She also worked for several years in the commercial sector of art, advertising, and graphic arts in general, and for illustration of books and magazines. She has edited editions of poems by Tefkros Anthias 1966 and Theodosia Artemis 1988, etc.

She has been a member of many critical committees on issues related to visual art for various organizations and public services. In 2010, she was awarded an Honorary Diploma by the Republic of Cyprus for her contribution to building the modern cultural identity of Cyprus. She was a member of the Board of Directors of Costas Argyros Museum Foundation between 2009 - 2022. She was also a member of the Central Committee for the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus and a member of the Pancyprian Peace Council. She was a member and Secretary of the National Committee of the Delphic Games of Cyprus. In 2022, she was awarded the Cultural Contribution Award, "Tefkros Anthias - Thodosia Pierides" by the Central Committee of AKEL.

She has been a member of the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts since 1980, and served on the Board of Directors as Treasurer from 2003-2006. She held the position of President from June 2006, where she was re-elected in June 2009 until October 2012.

Her works are in various public and private collections in many countries around the world.

## Christos Kakoulli (CRS)

Christos Kakoulli is a 32-year-old stencil artist from Nicosia, also known by his stage name CRS. Starting his graffiti career at the age of 12, he has received international recognition from a young age with his works. Many of his graffiti adorn the walls of public buildings and walls in various parts of Cyprus and abroad. Several of his works have engaged the public debate due to their intense social and political content. He has a photorealistic approach to his work and also makes street art with stencils. He is also called the "Banksy of Cyprus" due to his influence from the world-famous British stencil artist.



His inspiration stems from social pathology and the main themes of his works are the Cyprus problem, immigration, war and peace. He holds three world records as well as many awards and distinctions from local and international art competitions. Among others, he holds the world record for the smallest painting on canvas and has held a series of solo exhibitions.

## Yıldan Sedef Gülakdeniz

Yıldan Sedef Gülakdeniz was born in Tochni.

After 1974, she began living in Tashkent (Vouno). She is married with three sons.

She lost her two brothers in 1974 during the war when they were taken by some Greek Cypriots belonging to EOKA-B from Tochni together with other Turkish Cypriots from the village and from Zygi and two busloads of Turkish Cypriots went "missing". Years later, the Cyprus Missing Persons' Committee did exhumations in mass graves in Gerasa and Pareklisia and the remains of one of the brothers of Yıldan, Ahmet Hamza, were found in the mass grave. But her other brother, Yüksel Hamza is still "missing", his remains were not found in either mass grave.

Yıldan has been working in ceramic art for the past 20 years and she participated in many exhibitions and competitions.



## Vassos Demetriou

Vassos Demetriou was born in Famagusta and studied with a three year state scholarship at the "Istituto d'Arte per la Ceramica" in Faenza, Italy from 1978 to 1981. He is a member of the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts since 1986; Member of Homo Faber - Michelangelo Foundation; Member of the International Academy of Ceramics since September 2023. He has had many solo exhibitions in Cyprus and participated in many group exhibitions in Cyprus and abroad. His art work has been awarded five times in the Panhellenic Ceramics Exhibition in Athens.

## Derviş Özer

He was born in 1964 in Nicosia.

He grew up in the village Epikho (Abohor).

He went to study to become a doctor in 1982 in Ankara and since then, he lives there.

He is married with two daughters.

Since 1992, he has been working as a gynecologist.

Since 2000, he is working on sculpture and paintings.

His works were exhibited in various official competitions of art and sculpture. He participated three times in joint sculpture exhibitions.

His exhibition of photographs entitled "The Trace of Life" was opened in 2016.

He has three published books: A book of stories about "missing persons" entitled "Say Hello to Him", a book on folklore and a book on medicine.

Based on true life stories written by the investigative journalist Sevgül Uludağ of those who saved each other's lives and protected each other, he created a series of sculptures of Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots.

Among those sculptures was one of Stavros Poyrazis, the Mukhtar of Strongylos who saved the lives his Turkish Cypriot villagers both in 1963 and in 1974 but who would later be killed and would be "missing".

His remains would be found during exhumations of CMP, with the help of readers of Uludağ. Djengiz Ratip who is the only "missing" Member of Parliament of the Republic of Cyprus helped to save Greek Cypriots' lives in 1963. He is still "missing". Dervish Özer also made the sculpture of Dr. Hadjidakou who treated Turkish Cypriots wounded in the war and of Alpay Topuz from Epikho, who managed to stop the raping of Greek Cypriot women in the Voni prisoners of war camp in 1974.



In 2015 he graduated from the Communications Faculty. He has short films and scenarios about Cyprus.

In 2020 he graduated from the Anthropology Faculty. He has a book about anthropology.

In 2024 he graduated from the Philosophy Faculty.

He continues his work on short movies, sculpture, books, art and scenarios.



## Michalis Kyrilitsias

Michalis Kyrilitsias was born in London in 1946. He studied Fine Arts at the Camberwell School of Art in London. He presented his work in solo and group exhibitions in Cyprus and London. His works are in public and private collections in Cyprus and abroad such as UK, China, Cuba, Germany and Greece. He worked as a teacher of Art at the American Academy of Larnaca.

Through his work are portrayed the experiences and images from his travels, his love for the people and of course for his homeland Cyprus. As a brave supporter of Peace and reunification of Cyprus, he dedicated most of his life to the struggle for the reunification of his homeland and the rapprochement of the two communities by taking initiatives for the organization of dozens of bicomunal events. He passed away prematurely in 2011.

## George Gavriel

He was born in Cyprus and studied at the Surikov Academy of Fine Arts in Moscow. He graduated in 1987 with a "master of fine arts" degree. From 1990 to 2008 he worked as an Art teacher in Secondary Education, from 2008 to 2017 he worked as an art inspector in the Ministry of Education and from 2017 to 2024 as a Director in Secondary Education schools. At the same time, he is actively involved in the artistic life of Cyprus and beyond, with frequent solo and group exhibitions. In 2013, he was awarded the State Illustration Award by the Cultural Services and represented Cyprus in several Biennales abroad.

Like all artists, George Gavriel expresses through his works his love for our country, his experiences and his concerns about what is happening in Cyprus and the world in general in his own unique way. He expresses through his visual work his anxiety and concerns for the future of our homeland, the struggles of our people for reunification, peace and cooperation.



## Aliye Gündoğdu

Born in 1964 in Nicosia.

She obtained a degree from the Department of Economics of the Anadolu University (AÖF) (1993-1997) and a master's degree in business administration from the European University of Lefke (2018-2020).

In 1982, she began her professional career as a bank employee, continued as a coordinator in a trading company in the period 2001-2009 and as a director in a bank in the period 2009-2014.

She tried to maintain her interest in art by attending periodic courses throughout her education and professional life.

In 1998, she attended ceramics classes at the workshop of the ceramic artist Ayhatun Ateshin.

She participated in the ceramics seminars at the Atatürk Vocational High School in 2000-2001.

Between 2001 and 2016, she continued with her ceramic works amateurly in her own workshop.

In 2016, she started taking painting lessons at the studio of the painter Nilgün Güney and is still continuing.

In 2017, she started taking art history lessons from the assistant professor Havva Aslangazi Uzunahmet and is still continuing.

In 2022, she participated in the European Mediterranean Art Association (EMAA) art history seminar entitled "Currents and Artists in the History of Art".

Solo Exhibition

2023 "After That City" at the Ataturk Cultural Center Exhibition Hall, Nicosia, Cyprus

Participations in group exhibitions:

2001 "Seasonal Exhibition of Ataturk Vocational High School" at the Ataturk Vocational High School, Nicosia, Cyprus

2016 "Workshops Exhibition Within the Walls of Nicosia" Ismet Vehit Güney Exhibition Hall, Nicosia, Cyprus.

2019 "Animalium" Group Exhibition at the Tashkent Nature Park Exhibition Hall, Vouno, Kyrenia, Cyprus.

2019 workshop organized by Nilgun Güney with Australian artist Anton Nussbichler, Salzburg, Austria

2019 "Landscape Sketching Workshop Exhibition" EMMA Art Center, Nicosia, Cyprus



## Aydan Lisaniler

Aydan Lisaniler was born in 1962. Until 1986, she lived in her village Kambylli. She is taking art lessons from Nilgün Güney and history of art lessons from Havva Aslangazi. She participated in some joint exhibitions in the northern part of Cyprus. She also participated in the multicultural art exhibition called "Color of Truth" in 2013 at the Goethe Institute in Nicosia, on the buffer zone. This exhibition was about "missing persons" and "mass graves", facilitated by investigative journalist Sevgül Uludağ and artist Nilgün Güney. Since 2012 Aydan Lisaniler is working in her own shop at the Nicosia Buyuk Khan, producing handicrafts and her works of art and selling them there.



## Eda Gökçe

Eda Gökçe was born in 1980 in Famagusta. She started painting at a very young age. She studied at the Fine Arts Middle Schol for three years and then continued to study fine arts at the Fine Arts Lyceum for one more year. After that she started taking lessons at the Nilgün Güney Art Studio for six years and continued to paint. She participated in the group exhibitions of the Nilgün Güney Art Studio. She participated in various projects. One of the most important projects where she participated was the "Color of Truth" project that was about "missing persons" of both communities.



She participated in the workshops in preparation of the "Color of Truth", as well as in the exhibition at the Goethe Institute in 2013.

One of her paintings in the exhibition is called "The Pain of Mrs. Panayiota... Mrs. Panayiota was a Greek Cypriot woman living in Komikepir village. In 1974, her husband and her son were taken from their village and went "missing". In the painting the old woman is shown in front of a luggage full of the clothes of her missing relatives, keeping the hope for many years for the day they would return...

One other painting of hers in this exhibition reflects in abstract form, the seven Turkish Cypriots who went "missing" in wells...