

CONVERSATION WITH CHRISTINA KYRIACOU

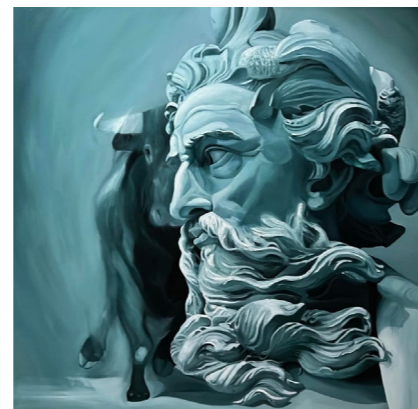
January Winner for the Eastern Mediterranean Region



Christina Kyriacou was born in 1996 in Nicosia, Cyprus. She graduated from the Aristotle University, School of Fine Arts in Thessaloniki in 2019 under the guidance of Giannis Fokas and Vangelis Pliaridis. The identity of Christina's paintings is influenced by modern architecture, modern buildings and their various geometric shapes, landscapes and geometric patterns, design and digital art.

I am a 26 year old Bajan who grew up in Barbados as an inside kid. Meaning, you wouldn't find me outside playing and interacting with the neighborhood kids. As a result I had to find alternative ways to entertain myself and those were reading and drawing.

As time went on I started to see where Art could grow. My aunt was a big inspiration in my early days as she also held an interest in drawing. I used to see her work and say to myself, "I want to be that good" and with hard work, determination and the right support system I achieved it. I have been blessed with a support system that has pushed me to the point that I am at today, a full time artist for the first time in my life.

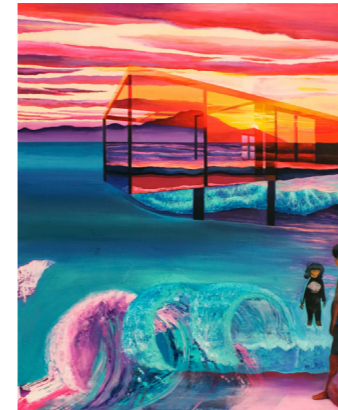


On personal education, and creative education viewed locally and globally

I am a graduate of the School of Visual and Applied Arts of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, with an integrated Master's degree. I am in favour of creative education because I think it's a way that students can use their imagination and critical thinking to create new and meaningful forms of ideas where they can take risks and be independent and flexible.

Instead of being taught to repeat what they have learned, students learn to develop their ability to find different solutions to a problem. It also helps a student to develop his/her individuality.

At my university, professors also support creative education; they gave us the space and the time we needed to grow as artists. They taught us the basics, guided us, and then left us free to express ourselves in our own way, so I think my work reflects my personal identity.



Throughout my artistic career, various concerns about human interference with nature have arisen. The industrialization of nature and the human intervention in it is my main concern, which is why my compositions consist of pieces of nature in combination with industrial spaces with flat geometrical forms that reveal the depth and dynamics of space. Man and his creations must coexist peacefully with nature and there must be respect for it. We must protect nature and the environment and try to cultivate a new relationship where man and nature can prosper and live in harmony.

Messaging with art

In my works, I combine nature with various architectural buildings in a surreal way, focusing on the importance of man respecting the cultural and natural heritage of his place, the monuments that have withstood time to preserve them, so that they are protected and handed down even better to future generations.



On Art as a representation of reality or escape from it

I believe art does both. In some cases, art reflects society's concerns, its various events and history, and in other cases, art can be vague.

My experience with online galleries could be better. For now, I can say that I am a little bit disappointed. First, I believe that the buyer through an image of a work of art that he sees in the online gallery, cannot understand and appreciate the effort and time that the artist has spent to create the particular work, and as a result, he wants to buy the work at a lower price.

I have sold some of my paintings at auctions at very low prices and somehow, I have regretted it. Most of the creators of online auction platforms are exploiting the art, forcing the artists to sell their works at very low prices so they can make money out of it. They see it as a commodity and not as a unique work of art that has value, made with love, imagination, and effort by its creator.

Some of the ways to improve the representation of artists online could be better advertising and exposure on social media. Also, the creation of an online art platform could enable the interested buyer or collector to choose a specific category, and direct him to the subject that interests him, presenting him the works of various artists with a text based on the history of the work, accompanied by a biography of the artist.

Online galleries and marketing artwork online



On cultural ethnical and national identity reflected in art

Yes, my works contain elements of culture and national identity. Cyprus has a grand and rich history. Due to its geographical and enviable position, Cyprus has had many conquerors over the years, and as a result, it has many influences on culture, art, architecture et cetera. Besides our beautiful natural heritage, we also have a rich cultural heritage, which consists of tangible and intangible culture and that's why I have selected to include it in my works.

Yes, artists should be informed about the facts that are happening in their society and create a dialogue through their art by giving a message and express their personal truths. Their art should help the viewer to transform his thinking.



On whether locality is important

