

Christine Mund is currently holding an exhibition of her icons at Forza 9 gallery in Paphos, which runs until the end of the month.

Icons depicting pictures of Christ, the Virgin Mary, angels, saints, and events of sacred history, have been used since the fourth century for veneration and as an aid to devotion, particularly in the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches. Believed to proclaim the Incarnation of Christ, they are typically in the Byzantine style.

In modern times a blossoming of icon painting has brought new vitality to the old idioms, as the artist's works in the exhibition will show. Her icons are mainly based on Russian and Greek Orthodox icons from the 13th century until the 18th century. Painted in egg tempera with gesso primer, Mund uses rich palette of colours, simple forms and flat figures lacking anatomi-

cal sophistication and spatial perspective, consistent with the Byzantine technique.

An interesting facet of this exhibition is the use of rough pieces of wood, thick blocks and even old wooden shutters as canvases for her paintings, which gives Mund's icons an individuality rarely seen in this genre.

From these old wood panels the stern faces of Orthodox saints who were martyred for their Christian faith look down on their observers. A pensive gaze of the Virgin seems to go straight through the onlooker. When looking at these icons, one should not note only the exterior beauty of their artwork, but rather their main purpose – to inspire man with Faith, Hope and Charity.

The German-born artist studied graphic design and illustration in Cologne and Düsseldorf. She lived in Egypt

where she taught at a German School. In Tanzania, where she lived for many years, she taught at the University of Dar Es Salaam and Njumba Ya Sanaa (House of Art). There she worked together with a writer and published books for children, winning a prize at the Bologna Bookfair.

Furthermore, Mund also created a stamp for Tanzania for the International Year of Apartheid.

Besides icons Mund paints portraits, landscapes and still-lives and uses different techniques such as pastel, acrylic, oils and coloured pencil.

Icons and Other Paintings

Solo exhibition by Christine Mund. Until December 31. FORZA 9, Polis tis Chrysochous. Mondays-Saturdays: 10am-3pm and on request. Tel: 99-127428

By Ledha Socratous

Iconic revival

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