

Lifestyle

THE CYPRUS WEEKLY Choice

HIGHLIGHTS 55

Friday, Nov. 20

BOOK PRESENTATION

'Tis Glykeias Choras Kyprou'

A quality compilation of artwork and text about Cyprus will be presented at Famagusta Gate in Nicosia tonight, Friday. 'Tis Glykeias Choras Kyprou' has been produced by Kastanioti Publications and is being presented by Nicosia Municipality and the Pierides Foundation. The event starts at 6.30pm.

One highlight of the evening will be Athens Mayor Nikitas Kaklamanis - who wrote the book's prologue - presenting copies of the publication to President Demetris Christofias, Archbishop Chrysostomos and the Mayors of Nicosia, Limassol, Famagusta, Larnaca, Paphos and Kerynia.

Extracts of the book will also be read out by celebrated Greek actress Mimi Denisi.

'Tis Glykeias Choras Kyprou' is made up of fascinating pieces specially selected by co-publisher of 'Lexi' magazine and author Thanasis Niarchos, also the Honorary Secretary of the Pierides Foundation in Greece.

Providing a unique window on Cyprus at the time of their visit, the pieces, including poems, were compiled by important Greek personalities who came to Cyprus during the 20th century. Some examples of the writers included are Costis Palamas and George Seferis, amongst many others.

'Tis Glykeias Choras Kyprou' also includes artworks by 32 acclaimed Cypriot artists. The artists and pieces included were selected by Demetris Z. Pierides.

Other important guests expected to attend tonight's opening include Technopolis (Gazi) Chairman Photis Ignatiou, painter and academic Panagiotis Tetsis and Eleftherotyia journalist George Kioussis, amongst others.

For more information on the book, which will be available for purchase from select bookstores around Cyprus, call 22-797400.



ART EXHIBITION

Fresh colour and serious intent

A professor once asked Canadian-born artist Stephanie Wood to turn her painting to the wall when not working on it, as the brightness of its colours hurt his eyes.

However, when the talented painter moved to Cyprus 20 years ago she found that the colours she loved were instantly at home.

Wood's latest exhibition 'Sanctuary: Interiors and Gardens' is currently on at the newly expanded Forza9 Gallery in the centre of Polis Chrysochous. The exhibition is on until next Friday, November 27.

The artist's new body of work is fresh and contemporary; characteristically bright and quirky, with something of a whimsical air. The paintings



are both sophisticated and naive in style, the light treatment sometimes momentarily disguising the artist's serious intent.

In 'Sanctuary: Interiors and Gardens', Wood visually explores the concept of sanctuary: a place of beauty and intimacy where each of us feels safe and at ease, separated and protected from the unpredictability of the outside world.

She paints both gardens and courtyards, and home interiors. These emotional oases, transformed by paint, were found sometimes in Cyprus, sometimes in Morocco, France or Spain. The artist's starting point is her own old stone house and walled garden in Droushia village is a very real sanctuary in her own life, which she shares with her husband Michael and, according to the artist: "an ever changing variety of house guests." Wood says she sees the Creator as very present in her own home and garden setting, and her use of tiny quirky objects imbedded in these paintings reflects this.

Forza9 Gallery is open Monday - Saturday from 10am - 3pm and by appointment. Call 99-127428 or visit www.artgallery-forza9.com for more information. You can also visit Wood's online gallery at www.plumislandstudio.com.

THEATRE

Superb but depressing



Thoc's latest productions are bold, brilliant but depressing. **Festen** (*The Celebration*) which premiered on Saturday is the story of a wealthy family that gather for a dinner to celebrate the father's 60th birthday. But there are shocking accusations from one of his sons—that the father, a respected businessman, molested and sexually abused his children. It is supposed to be a tragedy of modern times—depicting society's moral inertia in the face of guilty revelations. It also shows how a family is torn asunder, reminding us of **Oresteia** or **Oedipus Rex**. In addition to Neophytos Taliotis' splendid directing, the play has a superb cast of very talented actors—**Stavros Louras** (as Helge) and **Annita Santorineou** (as his wife Elsi) to mention only two. The presence of the little girl Cleopatra is amusing, but there are violent scenes, explosive confrontations, and dirty language throughout most of the play, so perhaps this is not suitable for youngsters. The English language adaptation, which retains the Danish title of the film, was written by David Eldridge and was presented in various theatres in England and other countries.

Whose Life Is It Anyway?, a play by Brian Clark, is set in a hospital room and revolves around Ken Harrison, a sculptor paralysed from the neck down in a car accident, who fights for the right to die. Despite the witty conversation, this is a drama that leaves the audience with conflicting feelings about euthanasia. Neoklis Neokleous as Ken is excellent. Directed by Athanasia Karayiannopoulou who told Phileleftheros in an interview that "a person's dignity starts from the right to choose"

Festen (*The Celebration*) is staged at Thoc's Nea Schini, Latsia every Saturday and Sunday. **Whose Life Is It Anyway** is staged every Friday and Saturday at Thoc's Nea Schini, Latsia. AH.