

Captured on paper

OUT & ABOUT with
LARA STAVRINO



A NEW gallery opened in Polis Chrysochous at the end of April, and for those of you who have yet to see the opening exhibition, it will be on until June 23rd. The gallery is called Forza 9 and the exhibition, by artist Yianna Nicolaou, is titled 'Strawberries'.

Forza 9 aims to 'create a platform where innovative young Cypriot artists can present their work to local and foreign residents, tourists and - through digital media - to other galleries and cultural centres in Cyprus and abroad'. As well as giving artists a new creative venue in which to exhibit, they also organise lectures and art courses, sell art books and offer an art library. This may be the first time we have heard of them, but it definitely won't be the last.

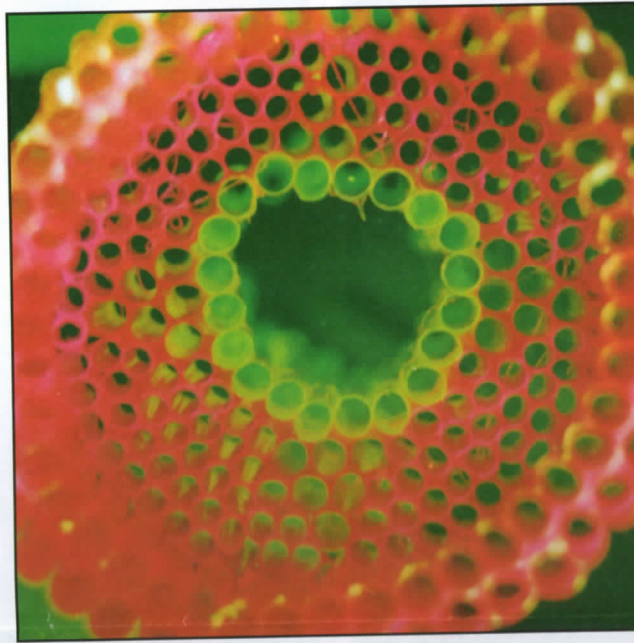
'Strawberries' is an exciting exhibition which opened the gallery with a bang. Nicolaou has a very

innovative outlook on art, and the fact that she was inspired by ordinary drinking straws for this exhibition proves that. She has created stimulating photography as well as a unique sculpture made out of straws.

This artist studied Fine Art at the University of Central England in Birmingham, and sees simple everyday objects in a way that most other people do not, or cannot. She uses them as 'alternative materials for her creativity' as the gallery puts it, and this has become the essence of her work.

The artist herself explained, "The way children create by using found materials and lots of imagination, as well as my own search for that playful, child-like imagination were the starting points of this project".

She continued, "By experimenting with household objects, I finally found inspiration in drinking straws. After



some time of creating small sculptural pieces with straws, I moved on to another perspective: through the camera. The outcome is fascinating. The effect of light on the straws sometimes creates a painterly image; another composition resembles digitally made images, which might even have a chemical quality to them.

My aim to see everyday objects in a different way is achieved this way. The photographs as well as the title are chosen especially to trick the viewer. This way that playful character comes back into the work. It's a guessing game!"

Find the gallery on Demetrakis Papamiltiadous 1, 8820 Polis Chrysochous.

