



ΕΠΙΜΕΛΗΤΗΡΙΟ ΚΑΛΩΝ ΤΕΧΝΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

E.KA.TE.

CYPRUS CHAMBER OF FINE ARTS

MEMBER OF IAA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ART

The Cyprus National Report

The Cyprus National Committee is obliged to send this report that is going to reach other national committees in Europe.

Activities

- Group and solo exhibitions in our gallery and in other cities.
- Celebrations of the World Art day with exhibits, party and street activities.
- Seminars and symposiums within the country such as “Dysfunctionalities in Contemporary Art”.
- Negotiations with other national committees for organizing events.
- We are in the process of creating a system that will police the artist’s intellectual rights in our country.
- Cypriot public and private museums are now included on the I.A.A.’s global museum list, putting Cyprus on the international map.

Obstacles

- Funds: Most of our members are young unemployed artists with no income at all. The government contribution to our organization is very low, due to the Economic Crisis, so we cannot afford to pay a full time secretary. Our office remains open only four hours daily.
- A small contribution of €500 yearly to selected elderly artists, given in the past years, is now rejected for economic reasons.
- The law for 1% art works on public buildings is frozen for over three years now.
- Art education: Only this year the University of Cyprus has opened doors for a limited number of fine art students. Until today all students had to attend institutions in other countries.
- In primary and elementary education, arts are not taught by visual artists but by teachers with some credits in art...
- In secondary education, teaching hours are reduced so there is no hiring option for the years to come.
- Actually there is no option of employment for any young visual artist for now and in the near future.
- The unemployed artists have no medical insurance coverage.
- Artists contribute to social insurance as self-employed teachers - or any other occupation - but not as Visual Artists. In Social Insurance Government Offices there is no profession of visual artists listed.

- Our organization, (E.KA.TE. - Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts) has 52 years of history and has been an active member of the IAA for 30 years. Thanks to the commitment of Christos Symeonidis, elected member of the IAA World Executive Committee and representative for E.KA.TE. and Cyprus, we have promoted, in the last National Assembly in Pilsen the following resolution: “Every artist has the right to be represented by a legal artist’s organization”. We are still waiting for our Government to promote a legislation that will give to our organization the **legal status**. Without this legislation we have no voice to overcome all the obstacles mentioned above. It is important to note that if we are included as organization in the Government’s budget, we will be more powerfully functional and we would have a stronger voice. We realise that most countries in Europe are in the same need of a necessary support for their artists. We are asking you all, not to remain in statistics and written reports but to take action as the IAA should for the artists and art creation.

Suggestion

We need a strategy that will lead to an immediate respond of all Governments and the UNESCO so that the demands for the artists’ rights and survival will reach the proper grounds as soon as possible.

Hoping for a better tomorrow,

Yours truly
The Cyprus National Committee