

The pain of the Missing

BICOMMUNAL TOURING EXHIBITION BEING STAGED IN NICOSIA

A moving bicom-munal touring exhibition of paintings dedicated to the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot missing persons is on show in the heart of Nicosia until the end of the month.

The exhibition entitled "This is my land" is by Turkish Cypriot artist Hulusi Halit who was born in Koloni, Paphos and has been living in Berlin since 1974 and Greek Cypriot, Nicosia veteran lawyer,

author and artist George Tornaritis.

Greek Cypriot artist Michael Kyrlitsias also joined the event.

Halit started the touring exhibition successfully in July last year in Polis, with Sevgul Uludag, a Turkish Cypriot journalist, who has spearheaded efforts to help determine the fate of a number of missing persons and has received several awards for her work.

With his paintings, Halit is building on Uludag's efforts to create an exchange that allows Greek and Turkish Cypriots to overcome their mental barrier and to resume intercultural dia-

logue.

The Turkish Cypriot artist tries to mediate and to contribute to mutual understanding, the healing of emotional wounds and less recrimination.

Speaking to The Cyprus Weekly, Halit said:

"I try to show, with trees, stories about Cyprus and everything about the suffering of the people of Cyprus and the relatives of the missing. Trees have stories to tell.

"I want to show, how trees try to show us, with signs, how the missing persons can be found and be given to their families. These trees give us signs where the missing can be

found and such stories are very important for the people of Cyprus for finding their loved ones who went missing mainly in 1963 (for the Turkish Cypriots) and 1974 (for the Greek Cypriots).

Tornaritis said that with his work, he tries to show "Cyprus's drama and the mothers and relatives of the missing and people in general on both sides of the divide waiting for the return of their loved ones."

"The drama is on both sides of the divide and Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots went missing. I use a rich colour palette showing the colours of

Cyprus, with the sunshine and its bright nuances, mainly ochre, symbolising a kind of hope for the island," Tornaritis said.

Kyrlitsias participates with one painting depicting

the pain of women during a massacre on August 14, in a Famagusta village.

"I want to show the pain,

**"I want
to show
the pain,
the suffering,
the outrage, the
confusion"**

CYPRUS WEEKLY (LIFESTYLE)

Παρασκευή, 20 Μαρτίος 2009, p. 73

the suffering, the outrage, the confusion of all the people, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots during a specific massacre and also the failure to understand how humans can commit such barbaric actions.

Knowing the villages very well I try to depict them along with the oppressive heat," he told us.

The exhibition is open at the Ledra Information Centre, near the Ledra

Street checkpoint until March 27, Monday-Friday 7.30- 3pm and on Thursday 4pm-6pm.

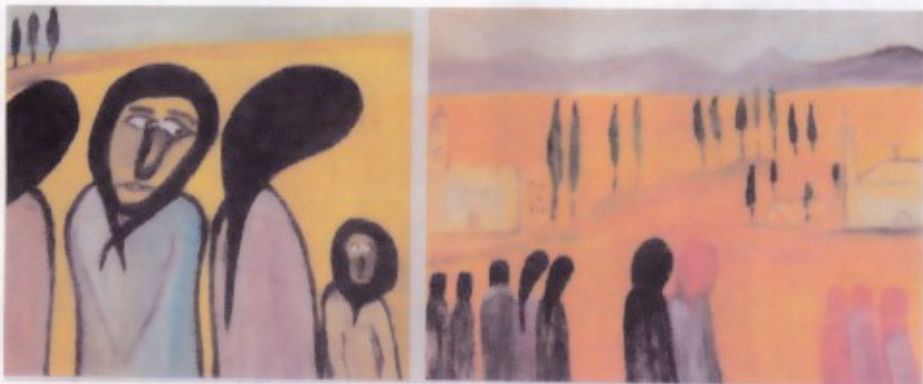
The exhibition will travel to Germany, Athens, Istanbul, Brussels and occupied Nicosia later this year. The show was inaugurated by Nicosia Mayor Eleni Mavrou earlier this month.

According to the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, a total of 1,493 Greek Cypriots went

missing during the Turkish invasion in 1974, of whom 103 have been identified through DNA tests.

About 502 Turkish Cypriots went missing during the 1963 intercommunal clashes and the 1974 Turkish invasion, of whom 32 have been identified.

About 40 Greek Cypriots are also missing from the 1963-64 period.



CYPRUS WEEKLY (LIFESTYLE)



CYPRUS WEEKLY (LIFESTYLE)

Παρασκευή, 20 Μάρτιος 2009, π. 73



CYPRUS WEEKLY (LIFESTYLE)

Παρασκευή, 20 Μαρτίος 2009, π. 73