



ARTICHOKE
By *Melissa
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Alternative lens

I can't remember who said it to me last week, but the words were sublime: "culture, the arts, are unsustainable, whatever one does".

I found this too easy to say, and not really grasping the point of any form of cultural endeavour. Or just simply dismissive of the fact that art and culture aren't truly about money.

As circumstances go - or coincidences, should I say - mulling over this sentence ultimately led me to places and people who, on the one hand, proved my point, but on the other, solidified the importance of governments, private initiatives and other bodies supporting the cultural realm, by embracing the 'unsustainable' acts of seeing things through an alternative lens.

Yes, arts and culture are all about creative expressions of all kinds, through endless means, by all kinds of people.

They're a place where not only the creator, but the viewer, too, can come closer to understanding their being or themselves to begin with, and then, perhaps, move on toward relating to other matters, too.

In this light, they should never be seen as something unsustainable or not. Investing in arts and culture shouldn't be defined by whether doing so is or will be financially rewarding, but on the basis of what is offered, to whom and in what context.

I'm hearing more and more rumours about cultural establishments - and not half-hearted ones, either - that



Silent Beauty

Photography group exhibition aligned with Pafos2017

The Chiaki Kamikawa Contemporary Art Gallery in Pafos presents a group exhibition of photography, with Cypriot artists Michalis Papamichael, Stellos Solofki and German artist Anna Würth, entitled 'Silent Beauty'. The exhibition opens tonight and runs until February 17.

The show focuses on photographic images expressed through different materials and presentations. The moments captured by the shutter are given extra layers of meaning by the ways images are presented and printed.

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Cypriot artist Michalis Papamichael prints his black and white images on paper made by him. The series 'I Wish', presents fragmented im-

ages of female bodies. Here, Papamichael attempts to reveal the soul and desire of human beings by projecting X-ray-like images on the body. These images are then printed on the rough surface of the paper.

The beauty of his work is found in the relationship between the photo and self-made paper, of which some leaves are as thick as a book's, and others thinner but with rugged edges, without bleached white colour. The materiality of the paper enhances the natural feel of the curves of the human bodies in the images.

Another Cypriot, Stellos Solofki presents classical black-and-white images. His works consists of a wide variety of subject matter, from surreal composition to static landscape.

And while Solofki often captures people in his frame, these figures remain anonymous, as in most cases their faces are not visible. The obscured identities add further mystery to the atmosphere in his works. It also suggests the blurred border between reality and fantasy.



German journalist/poet Anna Würth, meanwhile, creates correspondences between pictures and poetry in her 'Literary Pictures' series. Here, her photography, which focuses on metamorphosis, is playfully presented together with verses.

But her images are neither to be taken literally as illustrations for the poem, nor the verses as descriptions of the images.

The loose relationship between the pictures and poems give the viewer an extra space and time to reflect and interpret her work. These image-poem hybrid pieces are printed on large canvases hung in the gallery, so that the scale of the work also alters our usual viewpoint. At the opening reception, Würth will read her poetry from the Literary Pictures series.

The opening hours of the exhibition are Wednesday to Saturday, 9.30am-12.30pm and Tuesday, 3.30pm-6pm. Visits by appointment can also be arranged. For more information, contact Chiaki Kamikawa Contemporary Art Gallery, Pafos on 99311225.