



We all recognise the urgent need for global peace but it is essential to find a neutral and universally accepted means of spreading this very vital message.

Art is a universal language that transcends social and language barriers; indeed its visual expression provides an alternative outlet of communication and evokes raw emotions that make it an effective medium for conveying the message of peace and harmony.

Utilising this abstract concept for peace, German artist Rose Marie Gnausch painstakingly organised a civic art and peace movement that would galvanise people across the world to participate in an art project that dedicates itself to a universal affirmation of peace.

The culmination of this five year project called Go-Ganesha-Go comes together this Saturday, with a street art festival that will be held at the Ledra Street checkpoint, on both sides of the divide.

For the purpose of this movement, the uniting symbol for peace is the elephant, a



majestic and kind figure of great wisdom which, in spite of its size, lives harmoniously with all species and is thus an appropriate emblem for this art movement.

Through its calm presence, the elephant will transcend its status symbol not only for Gnausch's current project, but also for further peace initiative art projects throughout the international community. Art has an inherent power to bring about change and to start transformation and the elephant could become a worldwide symbol for peace.

The response to this appeal has been overwhelming, individuals and artists from all over the world have made their wish for peace in Cyprus visible by creating art objects, paintings, sculptures and donating items.

The day of festivities will also include drummers of the bi-communal band Druminspire who will provide the musical background, whereas poets Neshe Yashin and Ellie Paeonidou will recite poems.

A civic art project with a difference, Go-Ganesha-Go offers people worldwide the opportunity to express their right to live peacefully with one another, regardless of the given political situation by using art as an aesthetic tool and visual expression for their wish for peace.

Go-Ganesha-Go Street Peace Festival  
Civic art and peace movement whereby individuals and artists from all over the world have created art objects to be exhibited on the streets. May 9. Ledra Street, old Nicosia. 11am. Tel: 22-674608

*By Ledha Socratous*

# Pachyderm for peace