

Exhibition

GoGaneshaGo - Peace made visible

The first exhibition of this civic art movement will take place at Famagusta Gate, Nicosia from 14 – 22 January 2009. The opening speech will be held by Mrs. Daphne Trimikliniotis, President of EKATE, The Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts, on Wednesday, 14 January, at 20.00 hrs

This new art movement is meant to give a visual expression to the abstract concept and wish for peace. It is the platform for anyone from anywhere in the world, children and grown-ups, artists and non-artists, to take part in its making. The common symbol of this movement is the elephant, a majestic figure of great wisdom which, in spite of its size, lives harmoniously with all species. In this project, art is applied as an active medium of a democratic society, homo ludens is at work.

This January 2009 first exhibition is a preview and features preliminary sketches and designs of work in progress as well as the first finished art objects of the May event. The call was answered by individuals, artists, teachers from all walks of life. On exhibit will be works of children from a school in Luxembourg, a Middle school in the South of Germany and a group of artists from Bonn and New York.

Children have created a long row of wooden elephants in a workshop for Christmas, Mrs. Fries (83) from Wittlich has knitted an elephant to show her support. *"Wherever I can, I help"*, she says and donates her knitted version of all creatures to social institutions and community oriented events. The exhibition at Famagusta Gate will make visible these quite peaceful individuals who donate freely without asking for anything in return. All contributions reveal how beautiful it is to be able to give, to deliver a sign to all human beings that most of us want most of all to live in harmony with our surroundings.

The new Buddha Museum of Traben-Trarbach (Germany) donated a wooden elephant as a symbol of solidarity with all human beings. Lorenzo Nahoum from Milano donated his favorite elephant to show his support. The artist Roland Michel from Wiesbaden carved a wooden dwarf elephant as they formerly existed in Cyprus. His elephant is dragging a C-like bridge, revealing the need to abolish all obstacles that hinder a harmonious togetherness. Lynne Kanter from New York had a meeting with an adolescent elephant on her 60th birthday while in Botswana. She contributed the photo of her special and cherished guest of this memorable day that she spent alone in the wilderness of Africa.

Meggi Hoegner from Maring-Novian donated her entire elephant collection. *"For years on end, I collected everything that showed an elephant. Today I am happy to be able to offer these symbolic items to the world. They are open for sharing and exchange."* Every museum visitor can leave his version of elephant and take an elephant from her collection.

Ute Lisa Roth from Wittlich created a flag with the symbol of the elephant. *"When the wind is at ease, it stands still and shows the symbol as a whole, when there are stormy times the division of the whole becomes apparent."*, the teacher of business administration declares. Veronika Weiss a trained nurse from Stuttgart, offered a slide she has used in many of her seminars to show the fear of the small versus the grand, an elephant who is encountering a hare. Arabic lettering around suggests the difficulty of communication between the two.

Christine Ra, a real estate agent from Korea, created a collage transforming the entire country Korea into a seated elephant. Never has she noticed that her country as a whole has the shape of an elephant. *"Would I not have participated in this event, I would have never found out."* Her brother, a school principal in Korea, is preparing works with his students to contribute to the May event.

The photo artist from Cologne, Sandra Speer, created a digital photograph with elephants wearing geographical maps of all continents as their skin. Walking travelers of this world.

Nicole Islinger from Bavaria sat down with her children and drew elephants as a symbol of peaceful togetherness. She has co-created a Montessori School who are as well busy preparing works for the May event.

The designer Kerstin Schotte-Mertes from Stuttgart painted a dyptic elephant combined with the lotus flower for the feminine and social aspect of the elephant nature. Gabriele Winckler organized a workshop in order to create elephants supporting the movement.

The sculptor and architect from Cologne, Detlef Backhaus, drew a three-dimensional seated elephant very much in the light of Picasso's gesture, yet using the new material of a bendable plastic structure.

The Canadian artist Christina Stahr offered a paper work, where the words gradually unfolding are declined in three languages. Peace as a developing unfolding process.

The group of artists from Bonn painted elephants in their natural habitat. They transcend all borders and inspire people worldwide with their calm majestic manner. A group of artists from Austria represented through Brigitte Saugstedt will install their work in person at Famagusta Gate.

The photo artist Nomi Baumgartl from Munich/Hawai produced a movie about Timbo an African elephant of unbroken will, spending his live in California. For the show she is sending her image *"The Wisdom of the Earth"* Timbo as a Peace Ambassador to Cyprus.

The Cypriot contributors will be able to come and install their work in person in accordance with the curatorial team before January 14.

We as organizers are extremely grateful for all these magnificent contributions and looking forward to a beautiful event. After Famagusta Gate the exhibition will be shown in May on Ledra Street on both sides and move on to other areas around the globe, such as Israel, Georgia and Korea.

The event is supported by the Goethe-Zentrum Nicosia and many Cypriot individuals who made this event happen.