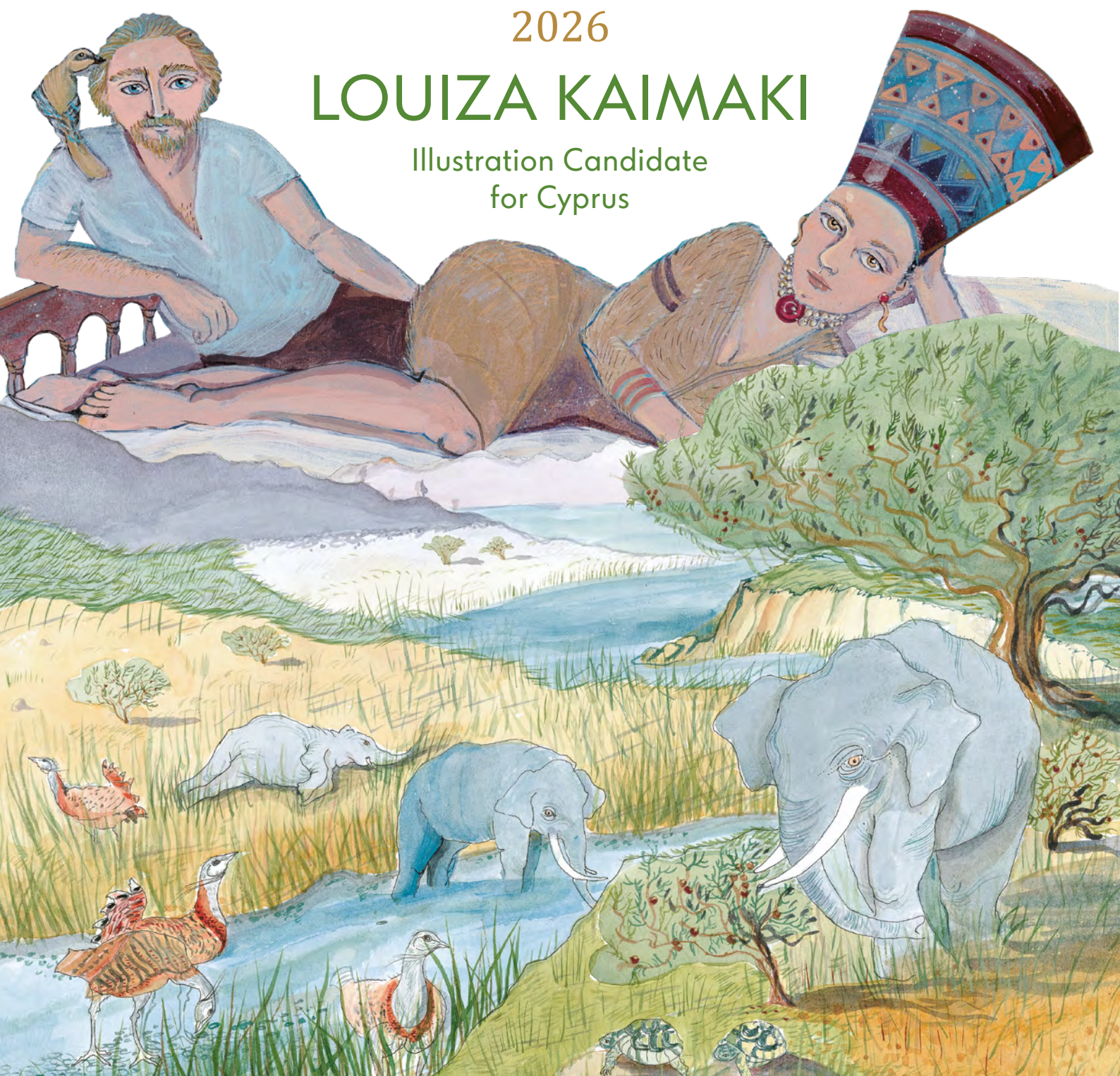




Hans Christian Andersen Award  
2026

LOUIZA KAIMAKI

Illustration Candidate  
for Cyprus







## Table of Contents

1. Biography .....	5
2. Contribution to children's literature .....	6
3. An article and an Interview with Louiza Kaimaki .....	7
4. Bibliography .....	12
5. List of translated editions .....	20
6. Ten important titles .....	21
7. List of the five representative books .....	24
8. Published reviews of the books submitted to the Jury .....	26
9. Exhibitions .....	30
10. List of awards and other distinctions .....	33





photo by Aldo Kroese

# 1

## Biography

Louiza Kaimaki (1976) is a Greek Cypriot visual artist and illustrator. Louiza was born and grew up in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus.

Following high school, she did an Art and Design Foundation Course in her hometown after which she moved to the United Kingdom to study at the Manchester Metropolitan University, where she graduated in 1999 with a BA (Hons) Illustration with Animation.

After her studies in the UK she returned to her homeland Cyprus where the illustration platform barely existed. It was such a big contrast coming from a country where illustration was flourishing. She gathered up all her knowledge and experiences from her rich studies and then went knocking on doors. “It was like waking up Sleeping beauty! Everything was so still. Nothing was happening!” Starting from scratch she managed to build up a portfolio with illustrated books, awards and exhibited her work in galleries in Cyprus and abroad.

Her first ever illustrated Children’s book was published by Costas Epiphaniou Publications in Nicosia- Cyprus in 2002. It is called “A Fairy Tale and a Song” and it is written by Athos Hajimadtheos.

Louiza now lives in The Hague with her husband Aldo, daughter Orelia and son Leo. She shares an artist studio in the center of the town.

She gets inspired by everyday life, by observing nature through nature trails and city walks. Her trips between the Netherlands and Cyprus, her two homes, gives her the opportunity to discover an abundant universe of social and cultural contrasts and diversities. Through her experiences, she enriches her knowledge on different aspects in life.

Louiza works with fine brushes and water-based paints such as gouache and acrylics. She has illustrated more than twenty books and won many prizes, including the Literature State Awards by the Ministry of Culture and Education of Cyprus in 2004 for her illustrations for the book *A New Coat for Ben* written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin, and in 2008 for her illustrations for the book *The Real Little Tiger* written by Kika Pulheriou.

After winning the prestigious Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou Bicomunal Award in 2017, focusing on reuniting the divided parts of Cyprus, she started a collaboration with Turkish Cypriot writer Sezgi Yalin. This collaboration resulted in a series of self-published books about the adventures of Jack-the-Cat that travels and meets the animals and plants of a united island.

She also represented Cyprus in biennales in Belgrade and Bratislava. Her paintings have been featured in group exhibitions in Cyprus and abroad, and her work is part of private and public collections. She collaborates with artists and writers in Cyprus and around the world.

Follow Louiza’s work at:  
[www.louizakaimaki.com](http://www.louizakaimaki.com)  
[www.instagram.com/louizakaimaki](https://www.instagram.com/louizakaimaki)



## Contribution to children's literature

written by the Vice President of CYBBY,  
Dr. Christina Christodoulou

Louiza Kaimaki, born in Nicosia in 1976, pursued her studies at Manchester Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom and holds a degree in "Illustration with Animation." She illustrates books for both children and adults. She has participated in group exhibitions in Cyprus and abroad and represented Cyprus at the Biennale of Illustration in Bratislava, Slovakia, and at the International Biennale of Illustration in Belgrade. Right after her studies, in 1999, she taught art to adults and young people at Nicolas Panayi's art School in her hometown in Nicosia. As she mentions, it was a wonderful experience where she was given the opportunity to share the knowledge she brought with her from her studies, as well as learning so much from the talented students. One of her notable appearances was at the First Southeast European Literature Festival in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 2007, where she gave various lectures and workshops on illustration in schools.

The State Literature Award by the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture was awarded to her twice. The first time she was given the award was in 2004 for her Illustrations for the book "A New Coat for Ben" written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin. Louiza was given the state prize award for the second time in 2008 for illustrating the book "The Real Little Tiger" written by philologist and writer Kika Poulcheriou. A few years earlier, in 2002, Louiza was also awarded the Illustration Prize at the first annual illustration competition organized by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation for Anna Kouppanou's awarded children's novel, "Aria Changes Worlds."

Following a recommendation from the Cyprus Children's Youth Book Association, "A New Coat for Ben" was chosen for the IBBY Honor List 2006 due to the high quality of the illustrations.

Through the competitions, Louiza Kaimaki had the opportunity to express herself freely and develop her own character, but also invent various techniques in the field of illustration.

Illustrating stories that other people wrote is not her only source of inspiration but also her own personal experiences as well as stories of the people around her, as she mentions in an interview.

In 2002 and 2004, she received a Certificate of Participation in the Educational Seminar—Workshop: Artistic Approach to the Literary Text, which was organized by the Cyprus Children's Youth Book Association with the participation of the well-known Greek illustrator and writer Vaso Psaraki. Louiza's participation in this conference, as well as her acquaintance with Vaso Psaraki, was for her a point of reference in her career, where she had the opportunity to learn a lot from the skillful Greek illustrator. A friendship has developed since that lasts to this day.

In 2003 Louiza, in collaboration with Turkish Cypriot writer and translator Sezgi Yalin, worked together to create one of the first bi-communal children's books entitled "A New Coat for Ben," written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin and published by Co- Create in Cyprus. This book was the starting point for them to join forces and talents to create a series of books entitled "Jack-the-Cat's Adventures". The aim of their common creation of this series is the hope that these books will unite children and adults through art and literature between Cyprus and its occupied area.

Based on the images she creates, she refers the reader to another dimension within the text, enhancing the imagination. Through her illustrations, she helps young and old people to travel to imaginary worlds and thus understand the author's story more pleasantly, making it easier to even relate to the story. Her illustrations strike a perfect balance between the text and images.

## An article and an Interview with Louiza Kaimaki

**The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia displays artworks by Kyriaki Costa and Louiza Kaimaki inspired by the History of Cyprus. The artworks illustrated the book series 'The History of Cyprus' published by the newspaper 'Phileleftheros'.**

**The Museum of Nicosia is considered as Nicosia's Historical Museum prioritizing the promotion pertaining to the history of Cyprus and the various aspects of its historical path.**

Kyriaki Costa, Louiza Kaimaki at Leventis.

With images that reflect historical events, moments and personalities of the island Posted on 06 December 2013 "Leventis", one of the most historic museums in Nicosia, has as its priority and goal to promote the history of Cyprus through exhibitions, presentations, lectures, actions and interventions.

On the occasion of this reasoning, the museum presents works by Kyriaki Costa and Louiza Kaimaki, inspired by Cypriot history, which were illustrations of an edition of the newspaper Phileleftheros.

Their work "Illustrating Cypriot History" could be considered very intrusive, since it is exhibited in the museum's collections. It follows chronologically the course of the history of Nicosia, while the visitor who wants to tour inside the museum will come face to face with the works. These are images that reflect historical events, moments and personalities of the island and 'converse' with the objects of the Museum's collections.

The whole effort aims to empirically revive the collections, to promote contemporary artistic creation, to poetize new images of events and myths and to bridge at the same time two detached time periods of art.

<https://www.checkincyprus.com/article/5173/kuriake-kosta-louiza-kaimaki-sto-lebenteio/>





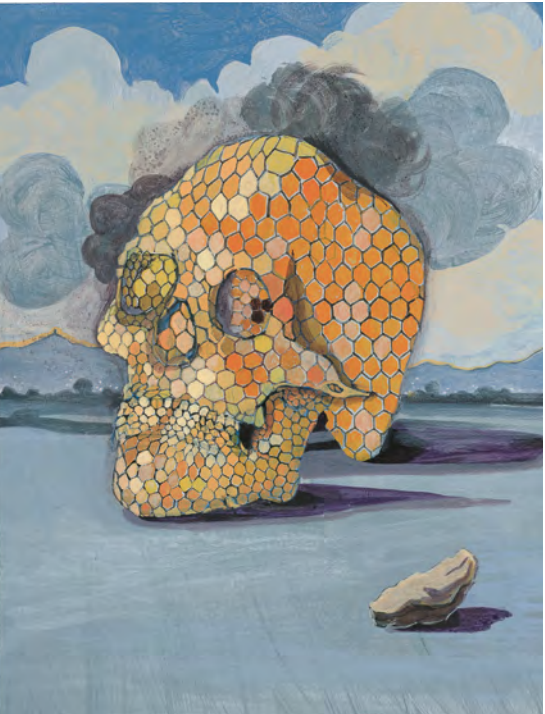
**Painting the History of Cyprus Kyriaki Costa and Louiza Kaimaki talk about the original images they created illustrating the books of Φιλελεύθερος**  
**by Maria Panayiotou, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

Richard the Lionheart and Verengaria, Aphrodite and Adonis, Tefkros, Kimon, Evagoras and Onisillos, as well as contemporary figures of the History of Cyprus, come to life through the vivid texts of Hera Genakritou and the original illustrations of Kyriaki Costa and Louiza Kaimaki, in the four-volume edition of “Phileleftheros”.

The two artists of the contemporary art scene, with their elaborate images, give shape to faces and events and travel young and old back in time, opening new paths in the field of book illustration for children and teenagers. We spoke with them on the occasion of the re-release of the series “History of Cyprus” from August 20th.

Louiza Kaimaki is based in the Netherlands, where she is currently illustrating a new edition for two traditional songs in collaboration with music educator Dr Avra Pieridou Skoutella, to be published by CCRSM (Cyprus Centre for Research and Study of Music).

And Kyriaki Costa, from her studio in Kaimakli, along with other projects she is preparing, continues to work on the images of the History of Cyprus. In autumn, she will present some of these works in an exhibition in Frankfurt entitled “Contemporary Artist from Cyprus”, organized by the European Central Bank, together with eight other artists from Cyprus.



**– What do you think of the illustrations of history textbooks?**

Kyriaki: It was very boring to illustrate when we were students, as it still is today. I believe that primary school children should have had this type of books for Cypriot history lessons – books rich in pictures and summaries written. It would also be very good for this series of “F” to be translated and traveled to other countries, so that the “expatriate” Cypriots can read it – it is a publication that stands on an equal footing with books of the history of other countries.

Louiza: Yes, I agree with Kyriaki. In our books, back then there were some paintings by foreign painters. I remember a small picture of a painting by Delacroix in one of my history books, the massacre of Chios. I studied that picture for a long time. I was so impressed by the composition of the painting, the colors, the brutality it evoked.

I believe that images help a child to identify with history and remember it. It helps to retain information in the mind. History books should have large images, not only by Cypriot artists but also by foreign ones. Children immediately connect with the faces they see.

**-Did the books of the History of Cyprus that you illustrated for “F” bring you closer to the History of the place?**

Kyriaki: Yes, it was an occasion to reconnect with our history. We remembered various events that we had forgotten. For example, through the process of researching each module, I became entangled in other events and deeper into our history. I took notes constantly so as not to forget them. This whole journey gave me knowledge and inspiration for my subsequent artistic career.



**– When you were a student at school, did you like history lessons?**

Louiza: We had teachers who didn’t interest us, but we had others who made us love it. With these teachers, I would go home and open the book to see more details. In high school we had a teacher, Mrs. Hadjicosti, who was excellent. She made history of her own and brought it to us very vividly in class.

Kyriaki: I have similar memories with Louiza. The history of Cyprus has always fascinated me. We had some teachers who recounted the events in a graphic way. They brought us vases, icons, to explain to us issues related to art and the way of life of the world at that time. We started the History of Cyprus in the fifth grade of primary school and if I remember correctly, every year we repeated it or covered other periods.





**Louiza:** What I liked is that history was put in order and I had a complete account of the events. If someone asks me now about the history of Cyprus, I can give them a lot of information that I learned only by painting it. These books give you clearly and concisely the history of the place and are useful not only to children but to adults.

**- Was illustrating the books a challenge for you?**

**Kyriaki:** At first I was surprised when we were assigned this job by Mr. Nikos Pattihis, publisher of “Phileleftheros”, because it was the first time I would do book illustrations. It took us about two years to complete it. Even today, I have works from these books that I continue to work on.

**Louiza:** Since it's my profession I had done big illustration projects before, therefore I loved taking part in this challenging project.

**- How did the division take place between the two of you?**

Louiza: We looked at the text and started saying what each one prefers to do.

Kyriaki identified herself with some subjects and I identified myself to other subjects.

I was more attracted to the events of fantasy and mythology, while Kyriaki was more interested in historical events, especially the most recent ones. There were times when one picture didn't work out, we discussed it together and then one of us took over.

**- Did you refer to other sources to create the faces and stories?**

Kyriaki: For each image we researched the era, the environment, the buildings, the means of transport, their communication, with whom they interacted, how they had fun, what concerned them, the fashion of the time, what were their influences...

- There is, of course, a strong element of imagination in your images.

Louiza: Yes, we were lucky to have artistic freedom. Nobody intervened in our work and tell us how to do it or ask us why we choose the way we did. For example, to paint Evagoras Pallikaridis, I was inspired by old photographs of him. I read in his biography and found out that while he was being led to his death, he was singing, so I drew him singing. When I created Cleopatra, I didn't want to make another ordinary picture, I wanted to make my own special Cleopatra. So, I found a source of old images of hers then I could create an authentic character.

For each image, Kyriaki Costa and Louiza Kaimaki researched the era, the environment, the buildings, the means of transport, their communication, the fashion of the time, what their influences were...

<https://www.philenews.com/eidiseis/article/73136/zografizontas-tin-istoria-tis-kiprou/>

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### **Jack-the-Cat's Wildflower Game**

Written by Sezgi Yalin  
To be published 2025

### **Jack-the-Cat Goes Wild**

Written by Sezgi Yalin  
was published only in English in 2023

### **Κάτι Μαγικό Πάντα Συμβαίνει Η Γιαγιά μου μ' αγαπάει!**

Του Δρ Νεόφυτος Λ. Παπανεοφύτου  
Εκδόσεις Αιγαίον 2021

### **Magic always happens**

### **My grandma Loves me!**

Written by Dr. Neophytos L. Papaneophytou  
Publisher Aigaion, Nicosia, Cyprus 2021

### **Το Όνειρο Του Τζακ Του Γάτου**

### **Μια ιστορία που βγήκε αληθινή**

Της Σέζγκη Γυάλιν  
Αυτοεκδοση 2018

### **Jack-the-Cat's Dream**

### **A true story**

Written by Sezgi Yalin  
Published in 2018 in English, in Turkish (**Sarman Kedi Jack'in Hayali**)  
in Greek "**Το Όνειρο του Τζακ του Γάτου**" and in French by the Cyprus French Intistute  
"**Le Réve de Jack, du Réve à la Réalité**", Institut Français Chypre, 2019

### **Μεσογειακή μουσική αγκαλιά**

### **Δυο τραγούδια για παιδιά από την Κύπρο και την Ισπανία**

Το κυπριακό ταχτάρισμα η Πουμπουρία και το Βασκικό νανούρισμα Aurtxo Polita

### **Mediterranean musical cradle**

### **Two songs for children from Cyprus and Spain**

The Cypriot lap song I Poumbouria and the Basque Lullaby Aurtxo Polita  
Text- music education activities Avra Pieridou Skoutella  
Songs' recordings Avra Pieridou Skoutella  
musiChild Publications, Nicosia, Cyprus 2018



### **Strong As A Lion Big As A Tree**

Written by Dr. Neophytos L. Papaneophytou

Published in English by Dog Ear publishing, Indianapolis, US, 2016

### **ΠΟΥΠΑ**

Συγγραφέας Μελίσσα Χεκερς

Εκδόσεις Πολιτιστικό Ίδρυμα Πανθεον 2014

### **PUPA**

Praised by the Cyprus Ministry of Culture and Education, Literature Awards 2015

Written by Melissa Hekkers

Published by Pantheon Cultural Association Lefkosia, Cyprus 2014

Published in English, "PUPA" and in Greek, "ΠΟΥΠΑ"

### **Κάτι Μαγικό Πάντα Συμβαίνει**

### **Ο Μπαμπάς μου Με Αγαπάει**

Συγγραφέας Δρ. Νεόφυτος Λ. Παπανεοφύτου

Εκδοτικός Οίκος Dog Ear publishing, Indianapolis, US, 2014

### **Magic Always Happens- My Daddy Loves Me!**

Written by Dr. Neophytos L. Papaneophytou

Published in Greek, in English and in French by Dog Ear publishing, Indianapolis, US, 2014





### Reading the lines

#### The other in the stories we tell about ourselves

A collection of short stories

Curated by Louiza Malouri

Published in English, Nicosia, Cyprus 2013

### Ιστορία Της Κύπρου

#### Τομοι, 1, 2, 3, και 4

κείμενα Ήρα Γενακρίτου

Εκδότης Νίκος Χρ. Παττίχης

Ο Φιλελευθερος, Εκδοσεις Βιβλιοθηκης, Λευκωσια, Κυπρος 2012

### History of Cyprus

#### Volumes, 1, 2, 3, and 4

text written by Hera Genakritou

Publisher Nikos Chr. Pattihis, Phileleftheros, Nicosia, Cyprus 2012

### The Dream

Written by Neophytos Neo Antoniadis

Published in English by Leibow studios LLC- Publishing, New Jersey 2012

### Oysters Pines and Elephants

#### The story of Cyprus Fossils

written by Roys G. Kassapis

Published in English by Heritage Publications Ltd

Nicosia, Cyprus 2011

### “Στην Χώρα Του Μαι”

#### “In The Land Of MAI”

Children’s book written by Chloe Koutsoubeli

Sponsored and published in Greek

by PIO (Press and Information Office) Nicosia

Cyprus, November 2008

### Κυπριακά Παραδοσιακά Τραγούδια Για Παιδιά”

#### Μέσα από την επιστήμη της μουσικής παιδαγωγικής

#### “Traditional Cypriot Songs for Children”

#### Through the science of music education

Sponsored, produced, curated and published

by Avra Pieridou Skoutella

and Michalis Hajimichael, Nicosia, Cyprus, 2008



### Το αληθινό Τιγράκι

#### State Award Winner “The Real Little Tiger”

Children’s book written by philosopher Mrs Kika Poulheriou

Published in the Greek language by “PARGA” publishing house in Athens, Greece, April 2008

### Illustrated Christmas card for “Psycho and Social Health of the Child and Youth Association” Athens, Greece, 2006

### 15 και 1 Μύθοι και ιστορίες με τα ζώα της Κύπρου

#### “15&1 Myths and Stories with The Animals Of Cyprus”

Children’s book written by Tasos Aristotelous and published by

“KIPROEPIA” publishing house, Limassol, Cyprus, October 2006

### Ο Μπέν Αλλάζει Φορεσιά

#### Sate Award Winner, “A New Coat For Ben”

Children’s book written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin

Published by “Co-create Ltd” Nicosia, Cyprus, April 2004

Published in Turkish “Ben Hur’ un Yeni Kiyafesti”, in Greek, “Ο Μπέν Αλλάζει Φορεσιά” and in English, “A New Coat For Ben”

### Η Αρια αλλάζει Κόσμους

#### Best Illustration Prize “Aria Changes Worlds”

Fairy tale written by Anna Kouppanou

Published by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2002

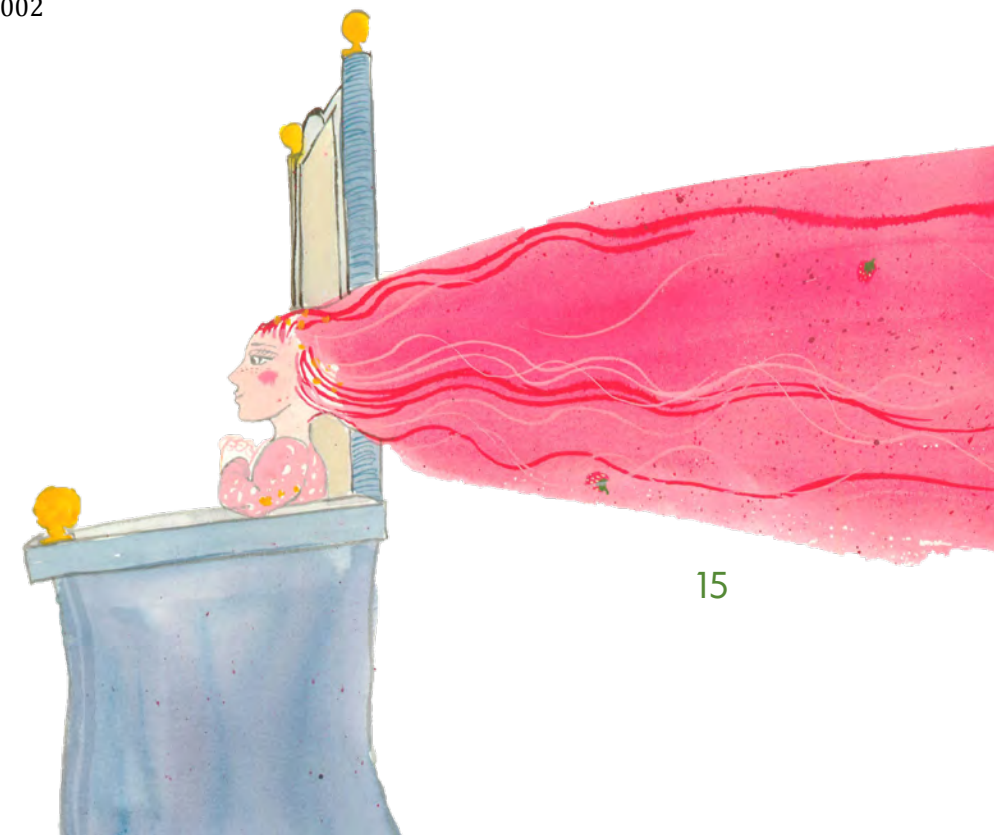
### Μια Ιστορία και ένα Τραγούδι

#### “A Fairy Tale And A Song”

Children’s book written by Athos Hajimadtheos

Published by Costas Epiphaniou Publications,

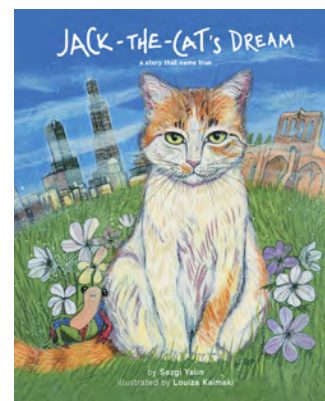
Nicosia, Cyprus, September 2002







Jack-the-Cat Goes Wild



Jack-the-Cat's Dream  
A true story



Magic always happens  
My grandma Loves me!



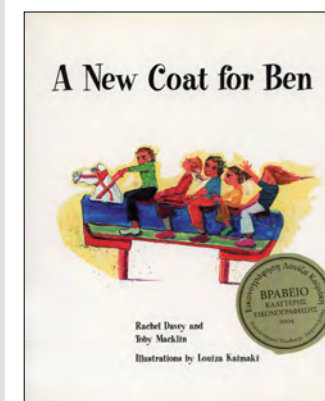
In The Land Of MAI



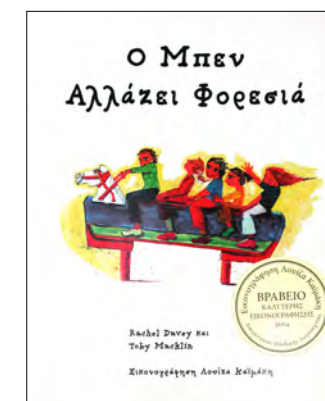
The Real Little Tiger



15&1 Myths and Stories with  
The Animals Of Cyprus



A New Coat For Ben

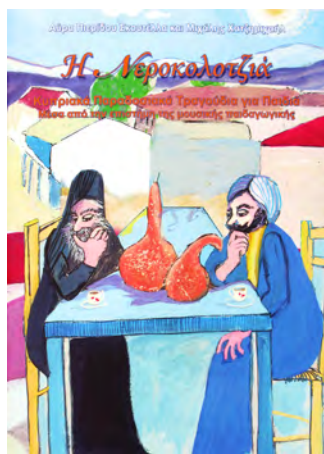


Strong As A Lion Big As A Tree

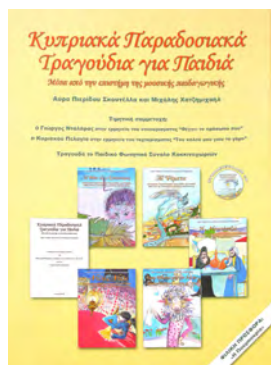
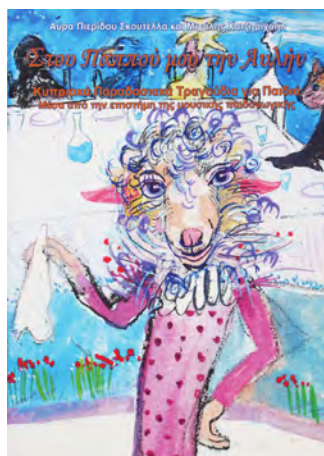


History of Cyprus





Magic Always Happens - My Daddy Loves Me!



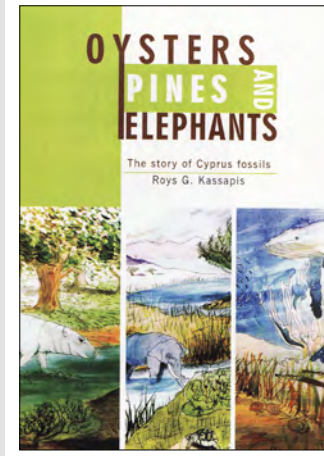
Traditional Cypriot Songs for Children



Aria Changes Worlds



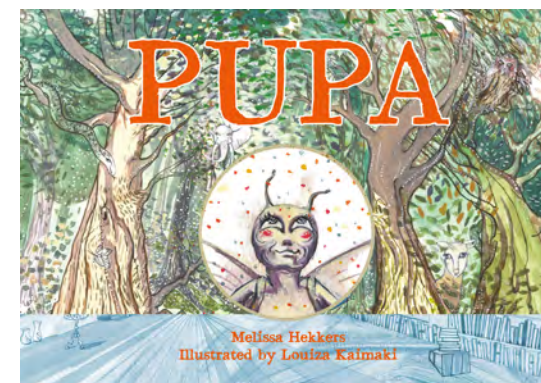
A Fairy Tale And A Song



Oysters Pines and Elephants



Mediterranean musical cradle



PUPA



## 5 List of translated editions

### **Κάτι Μαγικό Πάντα Συμβαίνει Ο Μπαμπάς μου Με Αγαπάει**

Του Δρ Νεόφυτος Λ. Παπανεοφύτου  
Εκδοτικός Οίκος Dog Ear publishing, Indianapolis, US, 2014

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Dog Ear publishing, Indianapolis, US, 2014  
Published in Greek, “**Κάτι Μαγικό Πάντα Συμβαίνει, Ο Μπαμπάς μου Με Αγαπάει**”,  
in French, “**La Magie Est Là, Mon Papa M’aime!**” and in English

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### **ΠΟΥΠΑ**

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and in French by the Cyprus French Intistute “**Le Réve de Jack, du Réve à la Réalité**”,  
Institut Français Chypre, 2019

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Children’s book written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin  
Published by “Co-create Ltd” Nicosia, Cyprus, April 2003  
Published in Turkish “**Ben Hur’ un Yeni Kiyafesti**”, in Greek, “**Ο Μπέν Αλλάζει Φορεσιά**”  
and in English, “**A New Coat For Ben**”



## 6 Ten important titles

### **Jack-the-Cat Goes Wild**

Written by Sezgi Yalin  
Self- published in English in Nicosia, Cypus 2023

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### **Κάτι Μαγικό Πάντα Συμβαίνει Η Γιαγιά μου μ’ αγαπαι!**

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Τομοι, 1, 2, 3, και 4

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State Award winner “The Real Little Tiger”

Children’s book written by philosopher Mrs Kika Poulheriou

Published in the Greek language by “PARGA” publishing house in Athens, Greece, April 2008

### 15 και 1 Μύθοι και ιστορίες με τα ζώα της Κύπρου

“15&1 Myths and Stories with The Animals Of Cyprus”

Children’s book written by Tasos Aristotelous

published by “KIPROEPIA” publishing house, Limassol, Cyprus, October 2006

### Ο Μπέν Αλλάζει Φορεσιά

State Award Winner “A New Coat For Ben”

Children’s book written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin

Published by “Co-create Ltd” Nicosia, Cyprus, April 2003

Published in Turkish “Ben Hur’ un Yeni Kiyafesti”, in Greek, “Ο Μπέν Αλλάζει Φορεσιά” and in English, “A New Coat For Ben”

### Η Αρια αλλάζει Κόσμους

Best illustration Prize, “Aria Changes Worlds”

Fairy tale written by Anna Kouppanou

Published by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2002





## List of the five representative books

### Jack-the-Cat Goes Wild

Written by Sezgi Yalin

Self-published in Nicosia, Cyprus in 2023

Published in English

#### Summary:

Jack-the-Cat Goes Wild is about Jack the cat that travels around Cyprus and meets four wild animals of the island: sea turtles, mouflons, chameleons, and wild donkeys. Each of these wild animals teach Jack-the-Cat the virtue of perseverance.

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### Jack-the-Cat's Dream

#### A true story

Written by Sezgi Yalin

Self-published in Nicosia, Cyprus in 2018.

Published in English,

in Turkish, "**Sarman Kedi Jack'in Hayali**"

in Greek "**Το Όνειρο του Τζακ του Γάτου**"

and in French by the Cyprus French Intistute "**Le Réve de Jack, du Réve à la Réalité**",

Institut Français Chypre, 2019

#### Summary:

2017 Cyprus Stelios Bi-Communal award winner Jack-the-Cat's Dream is the amazing true story of a brave cat who moves from the big city of Chicago to a small village in Cyprus, and the first book in the series **Jack-the-Cat's Adventures**©.

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### PUPA

Praised by the Cyprus Ministry of Culture and Education, Literature Awards 2015

Written by Melissa Hekkers

Published by Pantheon Cultural Association Lefkosia, Cyprus 2014

Published in English, "**PUPA**" and in Greek, "**ΠΟΥΠΑ**"

#### Summary:

Pupa is the name of a young and unique caterpillar whose adventurous nature takes her on a journey that makes her transformation into a butterfly even more meaningful. Pupa discovers the pleasures and importance of living life at its fullest, and savoring every moment of it.

.....

### State Award Winner "**The Real Little Tiger**"

Children's book written by philosopher Mrs Kika Poulheriou

Published in the Greek language by "PARGA" publishing house in Athens, Greece in 2008.

#### Summary:

The Real Little Tiger is a story for those who recently had a sibling. It tells the story of a little girl named Flery, whose mother arrived home one day with a baby. Flery is not very happy about it. In this tender written story, we see ways of dealing with the sibling jealousy.

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### State Award Winner "**A New Coat For Ben**"

Children's book written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin

Published by "Co-create Ltd" Nicosia, Cyprus, April 2003

Published in English,

in Turkish "**Ben Hur' un Yeni Kiyafesti**",

and in Greek, "**Ο Μπέν Αλλάζει Φορεσιά**"

#### Summary:

A New Coat For Ben is the real story of a 50-year-old playground horse in Cyprus named Ben Hur, and how a little boy who loved him helped him be refurbished.

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## 8

# Published reviews of the books submitted to the Jury

### **Jack-the-Cat's Adventures© Series**

<https://www.philenews.com/politismos/prosopa/article/1324250/louiza-kaimaki-o-tzak-o-gatos-tax-idevi-se-mia-enomeni-kipro/>

7<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Φilenews  
By Maria Panayiotou

**Illustrator Louiza Kaimaki met Turkish Cypriot Sezgi Yalin in 2003, after the barricades opened. They met each other, Sezgi as a translator into Turkish and Louiza as an illustrator of children's stories.**

**Together they produced one of the first bi-communal children's books, "A New Coat for Ben", written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin.**

**Their friendship was the reason to embrace a common vision and join forces and talents to create a series of books entitled "Jack-the-Cat's Adventures".**

### **Will you introduce us to the protagonist of your books, Jack-the-Cat?**

Our first book, "Jack-the-Cat's Dream", tells the fantastic adventures of a cat, who dreams of moving from the big city of Chicago in the United States of America, to the small occupied village of Bellapais in Cyprus.

The second book in the series is published only in English under the title "Jack-the-Cat Goes Wild". Here we see Jack-the-Cat exploring and traveling in a united Cyprus, without dividing lines and borders, getting to know the various wild animals of the island.

### **What messages do you want to convey to children through the stories of Jack-the-Cat?**

We are hoping that these books will unite children and adults alike of the occupied and free areas of Cyprus through art and literature.

The books aim to teach children how some of the most coveted things in life can be achieved when we are bold and brave.

We envision parents reading these books to their children and encouraging them to pursue and realize their dreams, just as Jack-the-Cat did.

It is our wish to publish the book in both official languages of the Republic of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish. However, to do this we need funding from an agency, government or private organization.



### **Are the two books starring Jack also aimed at adults?**

Naturally! They are the ones who will read the book to their children in the first place. We want this process to be enjoyable for them as well.

### **Should an illustrator have a child's imagination?**

It would be fantastic if an illustrator could possess a child's imagination! Unfortunately, we lose most of our childhood imagination along the way by growing.

But it is a challenge for every illustrator to rediscover his lost imagination and to find a way to express themselves freely through their work. It is important to find a language to communicate messages to children.

### **In the age of new technologies, how difficult is it for children to love books?**

I believe that in this day and age, as technology evolves rapidly, it significantly affects children's interest in books.

It takes systematic guidance, but also the passion on the part of the parents, for the child to be able to love books.

### **Do you think that the work of illustrators is not appreciated in Cyprus?**

Perhaps in Cyprus there have not yet been the socially appropriate means to fully appreciate the work of an illustrator.

### **But I noticed quite a big change in the last few decades and a renaissance in the field of illustration.**

Certainly, there are many more illustrators today therefore there are more actions.



### Jack-the-Cat's Adventures© Series

#### **Jack-the-Cat's Dream and Jack-the-Cat Goes Wild** The First Two Books in *Jack-the-Cat's Adventures© Series*

The author Sezgi Yalın and the illustrator Louiza Kaimaki of the two children's books above were born and raised in Nicosia, the 'heart' of Cyprus. They met each other for the first time in 2003 right after the opening of the Green Line dividing the island into North and South. One of the first ever bi-communal children's book called *A New Coat for Ben* (by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin) brought Sezgi and Louiza together – Sezgi as the Turkish translator and Louiza as the illustrator. Since then, their friendship has allowed them to embrace a common vision and join forces to use their talents to create a series of books that hopes to unite the children and people of the North and South of Cyprus in art and literature.

Sezgi and Louiza collaborated for the first time on the first children's book in *Jack-the-Cat's Adventures©* book series; it was published in English, Turkish, French, and Greek in November 2018. A Cyprus 2017 Stelios Bi-communal award winner, *Jack-the-Cat's Dream* is the true story of a cat who dreams about moving from the big city of Chicago to the small village of Bellapais in Cyprus. Beautifully illustrated, the book on Jack-the-Cat was created for the ages between 5 and 10 and aims to teach children how some of the most desired things in life are achieved through taking risks and being brave. Sezgi and Louiza envision parents reading *Jack-the-Cat's Dream* to their children so to encourage them to pursue and realize their dreams like Jack-the-Cat.

The second book in the series is *Jack-the-Cat Goes Wild* and was published in English in 2023. In this book, Jack-the-Cat travels around Cyprus and meets four wild animals of the island: sea turtles, mouflons, chameleons, and wild donkeys. Each of these wild animals teach Jack-the-Cat the virtue of perseverance. The book also contains real photos of these animals with information on them and on different ways to help protect them in their natural habitat.



### PUPA

**The Pantheon Cultural Association in association with CVAR (Centre of Visual Arts & Research), author Melissa Hekkers and illustrator Louza Kaimaki invite you to the book launch of book for youth entitled "Pupa" on Saturday 11th of October 2014, 5pm – 7pm to take place in the atrium of CVAR in Nicosia.**

Pupa, a young and unique caterpillar is about to transform into a vibrant butterfly. She's about to discover what it means to be able to fly and enjoy the world from above. Her adventurous nature takes her on a journey that makes her transformation even more meaningful. When she enters a circus in an unknown land, Pupa discovers the pleasures and importance of living life at its fullest, and savoring every moment of it.

The book is targeted to youth age 7 and above. It is available in Greek and English.

#### **The Author**

Pupa was written on the basis of an adventure, in this case a fantasy which looks into the meaning of time, accomplishment and drive, using a character which depicts gender connotations through animal-like characters. Throughout the book, the author has attempted to sustain a visual image of the story which implores the backdrops of the story as well as the situations faced by the leading character.

"Pupa" is Melissa Hekker's third published children's book. Her second children's book was nominated for the State Literary Award in 2012 while her first children's book "Crocodile" won the Cyprus State Illustration Award in 2008. She has also published a Free Verse Poetry Publication which was launched in 2013. Her books are distributed in Cyprus and Greece. Melissa Hekkers is a Journalist based in Nicosia, Cyprus.

#### **The Illustration**

Award winner Louiza Kaimaki presents seven illustrations that accommodate the story and which she has created with brushes and gouache, along with acrylics on paper.

In an attempt to respect the essence, the author aspired to give to the reader, Kaimaki worked with patience and contemplation so as not to take away the magic of the literary work, but stimulate the reader's imagination.

"Illustrating Pupa for me was a challenge! The charismatic writing and richness of Melissa's text brought thousands of images to my mind. The text at times is complex and brings out deep thoughts about life and the real meaning of it, yet it is also playful and humorous. This is not easy to illustrate, and holds many secrets which I tried to evoke through my work. Pupa is no ordinary caterpillar. She has a human side yet she is not human, and isn't an insect either. She has feelings and emotions, she thinks and contemplates about life. Drawing her took some time in order to finally find the character that suits her best.

#### **The Launch/ Event**

The launch will take place in the new premises of the CVAR, the home of the Costa & Rita Severis Foundation and its museum. After a brief reading of a segment of the book by the author, Kaimaki will present the authentic, live art works she created for the book.

Following the reading, children will have the opportunity to make origami butterflies with the author, and visit the museum. The entrance is free.

Publisher: Pantheon Cultural Association, Author: Melissa Hekkers

Illustration: Louiza Kaimaki, Design & Layout: Zara Der Arakelian

Proof reading & Editing: Katherine Pollard, Printer: Absolute Paper Ltd

For more information please feel free to contact the author, Melissa Hekkers on 99803832 or melissahekkers@gmail.com. More information about Melissa Hekkers' work can be found on [www.melissahekkers.com](http://www.melissahekkers.com), and Louiza Kaimaki's work on [www.louizakaimaki.com](http://www.louizakaimaki.com)



## 9 Exhibitions



### “Illustrating Cypriot History”

Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia, Cyprus 2013

The museum has as its priority and goal to promote the history of Cyprus through exhibitions, presentations, lectures, actions and interventions. On the occasion of this reasoning, the museum presents works by Kyriaki Costa and Louiza Kaimaki, inspired by Cypriot history, which were illustrations of an edition of the newspaper O Phileleftheros.

### Jan - Feb 2010 RICH ART IN POOR TIMES

Group exhibition at the exhibition space “is not a gallery” Nicosia, Cyprus  
Sept-Oct 2009

### BIB 2009 22nd Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovakia

Organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, at the BIBANA International House of Art for Children.  
Represented Cyprus with the illustrated book

### Jan 2009 A Book For A Lifetime: Artist Book

rowling/sliding/angering, The new Anita collections at the art space of Horst Weierstall, Nicosia, Cyprus

### Nov 2007- Feb 2008 Under Construction: Nicosia Contemporary Art Museum

organized by the Municipality Chamber of Arts in Nicosia, Cyprus, Self-portrait exhibition  
I entered the exhibition with one painting “Antwerpen 2000-self-portrait”.

### 28th May-2nd June 2007 The South-East European Centre for Children & Literature

in the district of Bankya, Municipality of Sofia, organized the First South-East European Literary Festival under the patronage of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Mayor of the Municipality of Sofia.  
I exhibited and talked about my work as an illustrator representing the “Cyprus Association on Books for young People”.

### February 2007 British Council Official Opening, Cyprus, Nicosia

Hospitality of three art works: “Grandfather”, “Crowded”, “The Performance” from the collection “Memoirs 1999”.

### Sept-Oct 2007 BIB 2007 The 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovakia

Organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, at the BIBANA International House of Art for Children.  
Represented Cyprus with the illustrated book “15&1 Myths And Stories With The Animals Of Cyprus” a children’s book written by Tasos Aristotelous and published by “KIPROEPIA” publishing house, Limasol, Cyprus

### February 2006 “Art aware”

organized by Nicholas Panayi and European Mediterranean Arts Association (EMMA), Nicosia, Cyprus

### 9 Sep – 31 Oct 2005 BIB 2005 The 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovakia

Organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, at the BIBANA International House of Art for Children.  
Represented Cyprus with the illustrated book “A New Coat For Ben” written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin and with four of the original illustrations.

### 16 April 2004 - 7 May 2004 “Art aware”

organized by Nicholas Panayi and European Mediterranean Arts Association (EMMA), Nicosia, Cyprus  
An activity which artists talk and show their art at Arabahmet Culture House at the North part of Nicosia, Cyprus.

### 6 Mar – 18 Apr 2004 “Young Cypriot Women Artists”, Helsinki, Finland

A bi-communal group exhibition by Cypriot women Artists, organized by the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Finland and Estonia, Miss Loria Markides, and the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts (E.KA.TE.), at the Kerava Art Museum,  
Participated with three paintings: “Alvaro’s Kitchen” (1999, gouache on paper), “Disley” (1999, gouache on paper), “Sanctification” (1999, gouache on paper).

### 24 Feb- 6 Mar 2004 ECHO ARTS- Living Arts center, Cyprus, Nicosia

Shared Echoes - A bi- communal event organized by Echo Arts in collaboration with E.M.A.A. (European Mediterranean Artists Association) from the Turkish Cypriot community.  
Participated in the workshop directed by fine artist Horst Weierstall.

### December 2003 The 42nd Golden Pen of Belgrade – 7th International Biennial of Illustration Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro

Organized by the Serbian Association of Applied Arts Artists and Designers (ULUPUDS), at the Progress Gallery.  
Represented Cyprus with the illustrated book “Aria changes worlds” by Anna Kouppanou and with reproductions of four of the original illustrations.

### 19-25 November 2003 “Open Horizons”, Nicosia, Cyprus

A bi-communal group exhibition by Cypriot Artists, organized by the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts (E.KA.TE.), at the Municipal Cultural Centre “Melina Mercury”  
Exhibited the painting “Disley” (1999, gouache on paper).

### 5 Sep – 31 Oct 2003 BIB 2003 The 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovakia

Organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, at the BIBANA International House of Art for Children.  
Represented Cyprus with the illustrated book “Aria changes worlds” by Anna Kouppanou and with four of the original illustrations.



**9-20 March 2003 Karavas Group Exhibition of Artist from Karavas, district. Nicosia, Cyprus**

Organized by the Municipality of Karavas and the “Karavas Refugee Association “at the Karavas Cultural Foundation Hall.

Participated with two paintings: “Java” and “Java2” from the collection “Memoirs 2003” (acrylic and gouache on paper).

Karavas is a Greek Cypriot village, in the District of Kyrenia and since 1974 is under the Turkish military occupation.

**February 2003 A bi - communal Group Exhibition of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Artists, Nicosia, Cyprus**

Organized by the Artistic Group “Artists & Artists” at the Hilton Hotel.

Exhibited four paintings from the collection “Memoires 1999” (gouache on paper).

**November 2002 “The Cypriot Artists of the 3rd Millennium”**

volume published by Zampelas Art Ltd, Nicosia, Cyprus



## List of awards and other distinctions

**9<sup>th</sup> Sir Stelios Haji- Ioannou Bicommunal Award Cyprus, Winner in 2017**

*Jack-the-Cat's Dream* is the true story of a cat who dreams about moving from the big city of Chicago to the small village of Bellapais in Cyprus.

Published in 2018 in English, in Turkish (Sarman Kedi Jack'ın Hayali) and in Greek (Το Όνειρο του Τζακ του Γάτου and in French by the Cyprus French Intistute “Le Rêve de Jack, du Rêve à la Réalité”, Institut Français Chypre, 2019

**Cyprus Ministry of Culture and Education, Literature Awards 2014**

Illustration Praise for “PUPA”, Written by Melissa Hekkers

Published by Pantheon Cultural Association Lefkosia, Cyprus 2014

Published in English, “PUPA” and in Greek, “ΠΟΥΠΑ”

**Cyprus Ministry of Culture and Education Literature Awards 2008.**

Illustration State Prize for “The real little tiger”, written by Kika Poulheriou

Published in the Greek language by “PARGA” publishing house in Athens, Greece, April 2008.

**IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) Honor List 2006**

The 2006 IBBY Honor List selection was presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> IBBY Congress in Macau, China.

“A New Coat for Ben” was selected for the IBBY Honor List for the quality of the illustrations.

**Cyprus Ministry of Culture and Education Literature Awards 2004**

Illustration State Prize for the illustrated children’s book “A New Coat for Ben” written by Rachel Davey and Toby Macklin

Published by “Co-create Ltd” Nicosia, Cyprus, April 2004

Published in Turkish “Ben Hur’ un Yeni Kiyafesti”, in Greek, «Ο Μπέν Αλλάζει Φορεσιά» and in English, “A New Coat For Ben”

**Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation: Annual Book Illustration Competition 2002,**

Best Illustration Prize for illustrating the award-winning book “Aria changes worlds”, a fairy tale by Anna Kouppanou.

Published by the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2002

**The 81st Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Budapest, Hungary 1989,**

Age- group Prize (age 11 years) of The International Children’s Art Contest and Exhibition, “Through Children’s Eyes”





**NOTE:**

This dossier has been compiled for the jury of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards 2026.

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