

Artist Thraki Rossidou Jones



An exhibition highlighting extraordinary Paphos women is set to be launched after three years says BEJAY BROWNE

# The heroines of Cyprus

Extraordinary Paphos women who have made a contribution to the community in some way will be highlighted in an upcoming exhibition that has taken three years to complete.

The idea will include around 25 works of art which celebrate local heroines and was thought up by artist Mary Chojnowski. She has encouraged different members of the local community to take part, including groups, schools and clubs.

"It's taken about three years to get to this point, mainly because I spent a lot of that time finding and working with community groups and schools around Paphos. But it's been worth the time and effort," she said.

The exhibition pieces consist of all sorts of artwork, including, portraits, mosaics, paintings and sculptures.

"Some of the art is by me, as well as other artists (some are well known Cypriot artists) and there are also a number of community pieces, which are amazing and full of energy," she said.

The exhibition has a number of aims, the first of which is to show the faces and stories of women from the community of Paphos, who are genuine heroes and role models for local society. "Some of these women will be people we know, some unknown and there will be some surprises," Chojnowski said.

She visits the Paphos Day Centre on a weekly basis and with people suffering from a variety of psychological problems, they are making a mosaic to celebrate the renowned female naive artist Thraki Rossidou



The Heroines of Cyprus Exhibition at Technopolis 20, Nikolas Nikolaides, Paphos. March 4-11. Tel: 70002420, www.technopolis20.com. For more information contact Mary Chojnowski on 99 595385

Children from Kouklia dimotiko work on a mosaic

Jones. "We chose her because she represents a Cypriot woman's success in art; her pictures are lovely colourful scenes of serene Cyprus."

Chojnowski said she hopes the exhibition encourages more community art events and ventures, especially as the town will be taking over the prestigious Cultural Capital title for 2017. "I want to show what's possible to achieve using community effort to create art, and how the art becomes more interesting and meaningful for everyone involved."

The project will see the heroines' faces - with their story printed next to them - depicted as a mosaic, sculpture or portrait.

"Women which we have often underestimated and undervalued, become heroic and noteworthy. This sort of work is really important for schools which do not have the time to explore art in this way, or get the chance to hold exhibitions, so I will be inviting school groups to attend," she said.

The artist is trying to finish a few more of her portraits of Paphos women ahead of the opening, and said that there are still a few places left for artists, groups or children wanting to be part of the exhibition. "We also need people to help with the final show and are looking for sponsorship as well."



One couple from Australia have e-biked further than anyone else before them. In a journey that is taking them around Europe, they have recently arrived in Cyprus. ALIX NORMAN meets them



My editor rides her e-bike to work every morning. You'll often see her shooting into the old town as the shops on Ledra open up, or back out in the dead of night after we put the paper to sleep. It's a novel way to travel - you're beating traffic, staying healthy (there's pedal power involved), and being eco-friendly. She's probably cycled a good few hundred kilometres over the years, and she's certainly pretty fit for someone who has a behind-the-desk-at-all-hours job. But she's got stiff competition from the island's newest arrivals. Because, in their e-bike grand tour of Europe, Gary and Rachel Corbett have clocked up a kilometre count equal to the distance from London to Australia - which is, incidentally, their home. Well, it was...

Almost a year ago, journalist Gary and teacher Rachel quit their jobs, sold their house on Australia's Gold Coast, and set off on "the trip of a lifetime": an e-bike cycle tour of Europe. Starting from London, they've been to Germany, Holland and Belgium, seen most of France and Spain, and beat the world record for e-biking distance travelled somewhere in Portugal - an experience which left them "elated, amazed, and relieved". But it's not just the unusual mode of transport that sets this couple apart: the world's most intrepid e-bikers are adjusting to life on the road (read: routes, tracks and sometimes fields in the middle of nowhere) at a time when the closest most people come to a bike is the Tour De France bulletin on the evening news.

"We're proving what's possible for people of our age," says Gary who, at 60, is a veteran cyclist. "A lot of people reach their fifties and think they're beyond everything - they've a sore knee of a bad back and the last thing they want to do is set off on a bike. And though," he laughs, "we may be taking things to the extreme, we're really passionate about proving what can be done." Gary is well-ac-