

Time for some art gazing?

AS AUGUST TURNS INTO
A CULTURAL DESERT, WE
LOOK AT THREE EXHIBITIONS
THAT ARE GOING AHEAD
DESPITE THE SOARING
TEMPERATURES

As we move into the depths of summer, it's not just the water shortage that has led to a serious drought. As venues across the island close their doors for the month of August, there seems to be a serious 'cultural drought' approaching as the country goes into hibernation.

Theatre shows will soon be hard to come by and concerts will be few and far between. There are, however, a few exhibitions now showing around the island that give you the chance to indulge in a little art gazing. We've picked three of the best, with the option of setting your sights on cutting edge modern art in the capital or taking a day trip out in nature to fill you with plenty of inspiration.

Ronald de Bloeme

Pharos Centre of Contemporary Art,
Nicosia

With the work of Ronald de Bloeme described by the *New York Times* as "eye-catching, talismanic abstraction", the Pharos Centre has really done a good job in bringing a much talked about up and coming artist to display his work in Nicosia. This young Berlin-based Dutch painter is currently making waves across Europe and beyond, with great recent success at the Volta show in New York.

Winner of the Vattenfal Art Award 2007, de Bloeme studied Fine Arts at the Willem de Kooning Akademie in Rotterdam and has been living and working in Berlin since 2000. The core of his current show consists of large format enamel on canvas works that have a truly captivating effect on the eye.

All about the influence that consumer goods and advertising have on the world of art, each canvas is bigger, bolder and more dazzling than the one beside it. According to art critic and curator, Christoph Tannert, de Bloeme's works reflect and reduce onto canvas the constant presence of packaging, national symbols, video games and pictograms. As de Bloeme's canvases now travel around the globe, be sure to catch a glimpse of this rather unusual exhibition.

Dazzling: one of Ronald de Bloeme's canvases



46 | SEVEN

AUGUST 3-9, 2008

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Κυριακή, 3 Αυγούστος 2008

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Bringing the outside in: Dawn Philips. Right: Meticulous craftsmanship by Doros Heracleous

Doros Heracleous Silks Gallery, Limassol

Installations that jump out at you from across the room are Doros Heracleous' trademark. His works aren't just innovative, but are the kind of pieces that are so complex you begin to wonder how someone can possibly have the patience to create such intricate pieces of art.

Heracleous is a well-known Cypriot artist whose energetic work can always be distinguished through his complex aluminium craftsmanship. His meticulous moulding and taming of metal allows him to explore symbolic references of various myths and legends combined

Large format enamel on canvas works have a truly captivating effect on the eye

with everyday items in awe-inspiring installations.

Many of his latest creations bring to life the famous Greek shadow theatre character of the 'karakiozis' as they play and tease the imagination. There are also plenty of birds, butterflies and flowers moulded and placed in various aluminium 'windows' which beckon you to take a glimpse into a rather mag-



what's on

ical world. Give yourself plenty of time for this show as chances are you won't want to stop staring at all that graces the wall of Silks Gallery.

Dawn Philips Art Café Kivotos 3000, Polis Chrysohous

All about capturing a little bit of magic on canvas, Dawn Philips will soon be exhibiting her works in one of the most beautiful parts of the island. If you like the sound of combining a day out by the beach with a little art gazing, then this is the exhibition for you.

Inspired by natural surroundings, Philips often uses photography to capture a fleeting moment before going on to develop ideas on canvas. A perfectionist when it comes to getting things just right, she spends time exploring various landscapes, but also interesting architecture and everyday happenings which capture her interest. Once she has taken lots of snaps of the world around her, she explores light and colour in various ways, producing works that are representational but not pho-

tographic.

From paintings of beautiful gardens to churches set against the bright blue sky, it's all about the best that island life has to offer. Philips explains that what makes art so very exciting and interesting is that you never know when magic is going to happen on canvas, with the quest for the illuminating moment never coming to an end. ■

Best Discount

Solo exhibition by Berlin-based Dutch painter, Ronald De Bloeme. Until August 25. Pharos Centre for Contemporary Art, 24 Demosthenis Severis Avenue, Nicosia. Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and by appointment. Tel: 22-663871

Doros Heracleous

Solo exhibition of installations. Until August 31, Silks Gallery, 3 Georgiou St, Hallmark Complex, Germasoyia, Limassol. Monday-Friday 10-7pm. Saturday 11am-2pm. Tel: 25-323220

Dawn Philips

Solo exhibition. Opens August 8, until August 26. Art Café Kivotos 3000, Polis Chrysohous, Paphos district. Tel: 99-555193

