

**IBBY Nomination**

**Sandra Eleftheriou**

Greece 2015

Biographical Information

Sandra Eleftheriou

Born in Pafos, Cyprus, in 1968, Sandra Eleftheriou now lives and works in Larnaca.

Her first contact with illustrating in 2003 led her to study graphic arts at Alexander College, Cyprus, from where she graduated with an Honours diploma (HND Graphic Design). Since 2004 she has been working as a freelance illustrator.

She collaborates with various well-known publishing houses in both Cyprus and Greece. Her work has earned her numerous awards as well as professional recognition; it has been presented on shows, websites and electronic publications; books she has illustrated have received praise in exhibitions and contests, while some have been translated into English and Turkish.

In her work she tries to see past the text and adjust her style to the needs and demands of each book. She has illustrated more than 90 books and has served on the panel for the National Illustration Awards (2016-2018) in Cyprus. She has taken part in group illustration exhibitions in Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Slovakia and is a volunteer in workshops on illustration and for the promotion of reading. She is the organiser of “Group of Illustrators” where Cypriot Illustrators meet and address issues and problems concerning the art of illustration in Cyprus, while, at the same time, offering each other their help and support.

She was nominated for the Madame Figaro Women of the Year Award, 2018 (arts category). She is also a writer and one day hopes to illustrate her own books.

### Five Books Submitted to the Jury

- 1) To Kryfto  
(Hide and Seek)  
Publisher: Kokkini Klosti Demeni  
Greece 2018
- 2) Stasou Sto Boi Sou!  
(Stand up to your full height!)  
Publisher: Papadopoulos  
Greece 2017
- 3) Rumbini Ton Dason  
(Rumbini of the Forests)  
Publisher: Metaichmio  
Greece 2017
- 4) O Megalos mou Aderfos  
(My Big Brother)  
Publisher: Psychogios  
Greece 2015
- 5) To Megalo Taxidi  
(The Big Journey)  
Publisher: Papadopoulos  
Greece 2014

### Five Additional Titles

- 6) I Danae Kai I Vrohi  
(Danae and the Rain)  
Publisher: Mataichmio  
Greece 2018
- 7) I Stringla pou EGINE Arnaki  
(The Witch that Became a Lamb – The Taming of the Shrew)  
Publisher: Metaichmio  
Greece 2018
- 8) Mia Kitrini Kardia Ki Enas Kokkinos Ilios  
(A Yellow Heart and a Red Sun)  
Publisher: Psychogios  
Greece 2017
- 9) Otan I Mama mou eipe Psemata  
(When Mum Lied to me)  
Publisher: Livani  
Greece 2016
- 10) Oi Mousikes tis Araselis

(The Music of Araseli)  
Publisher: Kalentis

ΒΡΑΒΕΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑΚΡΙΣΕΙΣ  
ΣΑΝΤΡΑ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΥ

- 2008 Α΄ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟ - ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ Κ.Σ.Π.Ν.Β. - ΤΟ ΜΥΣΤΙΚΟ ΤΗΣ ΔΑΓΚΑΝΑΣ
- 2009 Α΄ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟ - ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ Κ.Σ.Π.Ν.Β. – ΟΙ ΤΡΕΙΣ ΠΡΙΓΚΙΠΙΣΣΕΣ
- 2009 ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ 2008 – Ο ΑΠΕΡΑΝΤΟΣ ΚΟΣΜΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΟΥΡΑΝΟΥ (ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ Κ. ΕΠΙΦΑΝΙΟΥ)
- 2010 ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ 2009 – ΤΑ ΙΣΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΑ ΣΤΡΑΒΑ (ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ Κ. ΕΠΙΦΑΝΙΟΥ)
- 2010 ΑΦΙΕΡΩΜΑ ΣΤΟ ΠΕΡΙΟΔΙΚΟ «ΑΝΕΜΗ» ΤΟΥ Κ.Σ.Π.Ν.Β
- 2010 ΕΠΑΙΝΟΣ – ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΣΥΓΓΡΑΦΗΣ ΘΕΑΤΡΙΚΟΥ ΕΡΓΟΥ – Η ΕΠΙΣΤΡΟΦΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΑΜΕΝΟΥ ΠΡΙΓΚΙΠΑ (ΠΑΙΔΙΚΗ ΣΚΗΝΗ ΘΟΚ)
- 2011 ΑΝΑΓΡΑΦΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΤΙΜΗΤΙΚΗ ΛΙΣΤΑ IBBY 2012 - ΤΑ ΙΣΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΑ ΣΤΡΑΒΑ – ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ Κ. ΕΠΙΦΑΝΙΟΥ
- 2011 ΒΡΑΧΕΙΑ ΛΙΣΤΑ ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΩΝ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ 2010 - ΤΑ ΔΥΟ ΑΔΕΡΦΙΑ ΠΟΥ ΕΓΙΝΑΝ ΜΑΝΙΤΑΡΙΑ (ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ Κ. ΕΠΙΦΑΝΙΟΥ)
- 2011 Α΄ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟ - ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΣΥΓΓΡΑΦΗΣ Κ.Σ.Π.Ν.Β. (ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΠΟΛΗ ΕΡΧΟΜΑΙ...)
- 2012 ΑΦΙΕΡΩΜΑ ΣΤΟ ΠΕΡΙΟΔΙΚΟ «ΔΙΑΔΡΟΜΕΣ»
- 2013 ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ 2012 – ΤΟ ΣΙΤΑΡΙ (ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ ΛΙΒΑΝΗ)
- 2013 ΒΡΑΧΕΙΑ ΛΙΣΤΑ ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΩΝ ΛΟΓΟΤΕΧΝΙΑΣ 2012 - ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΠΟΛΗ ΕΡΧΟΜΑΙ... (ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ Π.Ι.Τ.Κ.)
- 2013 ΕΙΣΗΓΗΤΡΙΑ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΟΥ ΣΥΓΓΡΑΦΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ – ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΦΡΕΝΤΕΡΙΚ
- 2014 ΒΡΑΧΕΙΑ ΛΙΣΤΑ ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΩΝ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ 2013 – ΜΟΥΣΙΚΑ ΠΑΡΑΜΥΘΙΑ (ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ ΚΑΛΕΝΤΗ)
- 2014 ΕΙΣΗΓΗΤΡΙΑ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΟΥ ΣΥΓΓΡΑΦΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ – ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΦΡΕΝΤΕΡΙΚ
- 2015 ΒΡΑΧΕΙΑ ΛΙΣΤΑ ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΩΝ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ 2014 – ΕΛΙΤΣΑ ΜΑΥΡΟΜΑΤΑ (ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ ΛΙΒΑΝΗ)
- 2016 ΜΕΛΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΣ ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΩΝ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ (2016-2018)
- 2017 ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟ ΝΕΑΝΙΚΗΣ ΛΟΓΟΤΕΧΝΙΑΣ – Ο ΦΥΛΑΚΑΣ ΤΟΥ 8ΚΤΩ (ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΟΕΚΔΟΤΙΚΗ)
- 2017 ΑΠΟΝΟΜΗ ΤΙΜΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΛΑΚΕΤΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΟ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΑΝΙΚΟΥ ΒΙΒΛΙΟΥ, ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΑ ΤΗΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΤΕΧΝΙΑ
- 2017 ΥΠΟΨΗΦΙΑ Β΄ ΦΑΣΗΣ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΩΝ PUBLIC – ΚΑΤΗΓΟΡΙΑ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗ (ΟΙ ΜΟΙΡΕΣ, ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ ΜΕΤΑΙΧΜΙΟ)
- 2018 ΥΠΟΨΗΦΙΑ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΩΝ MADAME FIGARO – ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΧΡΟΝΙΑΣ (ΚΑΤΗΓΟΡΙΑ ΔΗΜΙΟΥΡΓΟΣ)
- 2018 ΟΜΙΛΗΤΡΙΑ ΤΕΧΝΙΚΟΥ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΟΥ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΗΣΗΣ – ΕΝΩΣΗ ΓΡΑΦΙΣΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΚΟΝΟΓΡΑΦΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

## Book Summaries

### 1) To Kryfto (Hide and Seek)

Vangelis lives by the forest but he always stays indoors. He won't even play hide and seek with the other children because he has yet to find the perfect hiding place. He doesn't want his friends to discover in a flash where he is hiding.

Just before his birthday, his grandfather comes to visit. The two of them explore the forest together and find plenty of excellent hiding places. But the boy is anxious over being separated from Willy.

Who is this special friend? And why does he feel so different?

### 2) I Rumbini Ton Dason (Rumbini of the Forests)

Something strange is happening to Rumbini. She's always shut away in her room, she won't talk, she won't play. Smaragda is worried. She believes her sister is in big trouble. All the evidence points to that. Unfortunately Rumbini has always been the gang leader, even since she was little. But Smaragda can't abandon her sister. She will try her hardest to be accepted into the gang and find out what they are up to. Who is the target?

A boy without a guitar, a big sister and a small sister will meet up at a concert that promises to be full of action and adventures.

### 3) Stasou Sto Boi Sou! (Stand up to your full height!)

Mrs Tall and Mrs Short share the same yard. They may be neighbours but they have nothing in common! And as if that wasn't enough, after a fight of Waterloo dimensions, they stopped exchanging good mornings. But all that changes the day the circus "Through and through" came to town...

### 4) To Megalo Taxidi (The Big Journey)

An occurrence disturbs the quiet and carefree life of the few inhabitants of the village. Through the narrating of events, the reader encounters the beauty of the Greek countryside, the solidarity among people, a child's imagination, a journey into the unknown and, finally, the return to reality.

### 5) O Megalos mou Aderfos (My Big Brother)

If you have a big brother, chances are he is being a wiseguy. He's probably always telling you, "That's not how you do it," or "You have no clue," or "Here, let me show you," or "Let me do it". He might not want you around him, he might force you to do stuff you don't want to; he might be better at school than you, he might beat you at basketball... Could he, perhaps, be protective and tender? A book about the power of brotherly love.

Complete list of Books (Illustrated by Sandra Eleftheriou)

- 1) Paidikes Istories (Children's Stories)  
Nicosia, 2004, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 2) Gialines, Xylines, Hartines...  
Kai alles istories (Stories made of glass, wood, paper...and more)  
Nicosia 2005, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 3) O Pragmataikos Nikitis (The Real Winner)  
Nicosia, 2005, UNICEF Publication
- 4) To Pio Omorfo Hamogelo (The Prettiest Smile)  
Nicosia, 2006, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 5) Ta Dyo Aderfia kai to Mauro Potami (The Two Siblings and the Black River)  
Nicosia, 2006, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 6) O Tromeros Raftakos o Ekatontavelonis (The Terrific Tailor with the One Hundred Needles)  
Nicosia, 2006, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 7) O Atromitos Tirimos Kai oi Saranta Drakoi  
(Fearless Tirimos and the Forty Dragons)  
Nicosia, 2006, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 8) Ta Gourounia Drapedefsan (The Pigs have Escaped)  
Larnaca, 2007, Eliso Publishing House
- 9) Me tin Adeia sou Barba Aesope (With your permission, Uncle Aesop)  
Larnaca, 2007, Eliso Publishing House
- 10) O Thisavros (The Treasure)  
Nicosia, 2007, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 11) Kodikos P.A.R.E.A. Mysterio sto Scholeio (Code P.A.R.E.A. Mystery at School)  
Nicosia, 2008, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 12) Gramma sto Neogennito Christo (Letter to the newborn Christ)  
Nicosia, 2008, UNICEF Publication
- 13) Ap tin Kypro mas Vgalmena Paramythia Agapimena (Favourite fairytales out of Cyprus)  
Larnaca, 2008, Eliso Publishing House
- 14) Mia Pikantiki Trellopara #3 (A Savoury Group of Crazy Pals #3)  
Nicosia, 2008, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 15) Oi Athloi tou Kafedaki se 7 flyntzania (The Feats of Kafedakis in 7 cups)  
Nicosia, 2008, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 16) Istories tis Melinas me tin Xanthi Kotsida (Stories of Melina with the Blonde Braid)  
Nicosia, 2008, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 17) O Aperantos Kosmos tou Ouranou (The Endless World of the Sky)  
Nicosia 2008, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 18) O Dimarchos Skoupidas (Mayor Skoupidas)  
Nicosia, 2009, UNICEF Publication
- 19) I Omada ton 5 Enantion Maurou Sifouna (Team of 5 Against Black Tornado)  
Nicosia, 2009, Epifaniou Publishing House

- 20) Ta Isia kai ta Strava (Straight and Crooked)  
Nicosia, 2009, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 21) Stin Chora me ta Trella – Strava Ki Anapoda (In the Land of the Crazy – Topsy – Turvy)  
Nicosia, 2009, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 22) Gatisies Istories (Cat Stories)  
Nicosia, 2009, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 23) I Katia sto Mageftiko Dasos ton polyhromon petaloudon (Katia in the Enchanted Forest of the Multi-coloured Butterflies)  
Nicosia, 2009, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 24) Istories tou Dasous (Stories of the forest)  
Nicosia, 2009, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 25) Ta Dentra ton Hristougennon (The Christmas Trees)  
Nicosia, 2009, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 26) O barba Thomas Kai I Alepou (Uncle Thomas and the Fox)  
Nicosia, 2009, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 27) To Mystiko tis Danganas  
(The Secret of the Claw)  
Nicosia, 2009, P.I.T.K. (Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation) Publication
- 28) To Tragoudi tis Vrohis/To Panigyri ton Ampelion (The Rain Song/The Vineyard fair)  
Nicosia, 2010, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 29) Enas Alithinos Paradisos (A Real Paradise)  
Nicosia, 2010, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 30) Ta Dyo Adelfia Pou Eginan Manitaria (The Two Siblings that turned into Mushrooms)  
Nicosia, 2010, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 31) To Synnefaki pou Fovotan ton Anemo (The Cloud that was afraid of the Wind)  
Nicosia, 2010, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 32) Me Pisti ston Timio Agona Mas (With faith in our Honest Struggle)  
Larnaca, 2010, Soteria Pyla Publishing
- 33) Planitis Gi, Mia Anihti Pligi (Planet Earth, An Open Wound)  
Limassol, 2010, A. Aristotelous Publishing
- 34) I Griza Politia (The Grey Town)  
Nicosia, 2010, UNICEF Publication
- 35) Horis Mystika (Without Secrets)  
Nicosia, 2010, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 36) Mikrovio...Paramyathi/O Glifintzouris kai o Odontovourtsas (Fairytale of Germs...Lollipop and Toothbrush)  
Nicosia, 2010, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 37) I Tris Pingipisses (The Three Princesses)  
Nicosia, 2010, P.I.T.K. (Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation) Publication
- 38) Ta Stratiotakia (Toy Soldiers)  
Nicosia, 2010, UNICEF Publication
- 39) O Tragoudistis Kokoras kai alla paramythia (The Rooster-Singer and other fairytales)  
Limassol, 2011, Athos Hadjimathaiou Publishing



- 40) O Kontorevithoulis (Little Chickpea – Hop O’ My Thumb)  
Nicosia, 2011, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 41) O Mikros Kyrios... Ou (Little Mister... Ou)  
Larnaca, 2011, Pilio Publishing
- 42) O Makki stin Europi (Makki in Europe)  
Nicosia, 2011, Epifaniou Publishing House
- 43) Hristougenniatikes Istories kai Paramythia - Pente Hristougenna Kai Kati (Christmas Stories and Fairytales – Five Christmas and Some)  
Nicosia, 2011, Elias Epifaniou Publishing House
- 44) Kopiaste stis Eratos (Welcome to Erato’s)  
Nicosia, 2012, Elias Epifaniou Publishing House
- 45) O Petros kai o Aderfos tou (Petros and his brother)  
Athens, 2012, Papadopoulos Publishing House
- 46) I Lella sto Nosokomeio (Lella In Hospital)  
Athens, 2012, Papadopoulos Publishing House
- 47) To Sitari (The Wheat)  
Athens, 2012, Livanis Publishing House
- 48) Stin Angalia tis Thalassas (In the Sea’s Embrace)  
Pafos, 2013, Manus Scripta Publishing
- 49) Kodikos P.A.R.E.A. – To Mystririo tis Paraxenis Vrohis (Code P.A.R.E.A. – The Mystery of the Strange Rain)  
Athens, 2013, Patakis Publishing House
- 50) Mousika Paramythia (Musical Fairytales)  
Athens, 2013, Kalentis Publishing House
- 51) Pios Fovate Ta Mikrovia (Who’s Afraid of Germs)  
Athens, 2014, Livanis Publishing House
- 52) I Gorgona Elisso (The Mermaid Elisso)  
Athens, 2014, Psychogios Publishing House
- 53) Stin Akadimia Dinosauron (Dinosaur Academy)  
Athens, 2014, Papadopoulos Publishing House
- 54) Thelo Panta Na Gelas (I want you to Always Laugh)  
Athens, 2014, Papadopoulos Publishing
- 55) Mia kithara kai Polles Sygnomes (A Guitar and Plenty of Apologies)  
Athens, 2014, Psychogios Publishing House
- 56) To Megalo Taxidi (The Big Journey)  
Athens, 2014, Papadopoulos Publishing House
- 57) Efkoles erotisis, Diskoles Apantisis (Easy Questions, Difficult Answers)  
Athens, 2014, Psychogios Publishing House
- 58) Elitsa Mavromata (Little Black-eyed Olive)  
Athens, 2014, Livanis Publishing House
- 59) Ta Dinosavrakia Kykloforoun me Asfalia (Little Dinosaurs Travel Safely)  
Athens, 2015, Kalentis Publishing House
- 60) Ena Kouvari Mystika (A Tangle of Secrets)

- Athens, 2015, Psychohios Publishing House  
61) O Megalos mou Aderfos (My Big Brother)
- Athens, 2015, Psychogios Publishing House  
62) Mia Zaharenia Syntagi (A Sugary Recipe)
- Athens, 2015, Ianos Publishing House  
63) I Mousikes tis Araselis (The Music of Araseli)
- Athens, 2015, Kalentis Publishing House  
64) To Imerologio tis Neas Mamas (The Diary of a New Mum)
- Athens, 2016, Papadopoulos Publishing House  
65) Orfeas Kai Evridiki (Orpheus and Eurydice)
- Athens, 2016, Metaichmio Publishing House  
66) To Fouskohori (The Puffer Village)
- Athens, 2016, Metaichmio Publishing House  
67) I Peripeties tou Ipiou Thermokipiou – I Maska tou Vasilia (The Adventures of the Mild Greenhouse – the King’s Mask)
- Athens, 2016, Psychogios Publishing House  
68) I Xypnia Vasilopoula (Princess Astir)
- Athens, 2016, Metaichmio Publishing House  
69) Ploutonas kai Persefoni (Pluto And Persephone)
- Athens, 2016, Metaichmio Publishing House  
70) Mia Maska Magiki (A Magic Mask)
- Nicosia, 2016, Cyprus Children’s Museum publication  
71) Oniro Kalokerinis Nyhtas (Summer Night’s Dream)
- Athens, 2016, Metaichmio Publishing House  
72) I Peripeties tou Ipiou Thermokipiou – To Hameno Hirografo (The Adventures of the Mild Greenhouse – The Lost Manuscript)
- Athens, 2016, Psychogios Publishing House  
73) To Oniro tou Magou Teri – Xefteri (Magician Brilliant Teri’s Dream)
- Athens, 2016, Minoas Publishing House  
74) Otan I Mama mou eipe Psemata (When Mum Lied to Me)
- Athens, 2016, Livanis Publishing House  
75) Hionismeni Platia (Snow-covered square)
- Athens, 2016, Ellinoekdotiki Publishing House  
76) Limo O Lemonakis (Limo the Little Lemon)
- Athens, 2017, Kokkini Klosti Demeni Publishing House  
77) To Imerologio Enos Exerevniti (The Diary of an Explorer)
- Athens, Ellinoekdotiki Publishing House  
78) O Manga Drakos (Hotshot Dragon)
- Athens, 2017, Metaichmio Publishing House  
79) I Peripeties tou Ipiou Thermokipiou – I Evdomi Karyatida (The Adventures of the Mild Greenhouse – the Seventh Caryatid)
- Athens, 2017, Psychogios Publishing House

- 80) *Isotries gia Atromita Koritsia – 40 Monadikes Ellinides (Stories for Brave Girls – 40 unique Greek Women)*  
Athens, 2017, Papadopoulos Publishing House
- 81) *Stasou sto Boi Sou (Stand up to your full height!)*  
Athens, 2017, Papadopoulos Publishing House
- 82) *I Mires (The Fates)*  
Athens, 2017, Metaichmio Publishing House
- 83) *Mia Kitrini Kardia Ki Enas Kokkinos Ilios (A yellow heart and a Red Sun)*  
Athens, Psychogios Publishing House
- 84) *I Rumbini Ton Dason (Rumbini of the Forests)*  
Athens, 2017, Metaichmio Publishing House
- 85) *I Danae kai I Vrohi (Danae and the Rain)*  
Athens, 2018, Metaichmio Publishing House
- 86) *Ela Mazi Mou (Come With Me)*  
Athens, 2018, Psychogios Publishing House
- 87) *I Stringla Pou Egin Arnaki (The Witch that Became a Lamb – The Taming of the Shrew)*  
Athens, 2018, Metaichmio Publishing House
- 88) *O Justin Grey Kai I Fylakes tis Gris (Justin Grey and the keepers of the Earth)*  
Athens, 2018, Metaichmio Publishing House
- 89) *To Kryfto (Hide and Seek)*  
Athens, 2018, Kokkini Klosti Demeni
- 90) *Mono An Thelo (Only If I Want to)*  
Athens, 2018, Minoas Publishing House
- 91) *I Aliki stin Hora ton Thavmaton (Alice In Wonderland)*  
Athens, 2018, Metaichmio Publishing House
- 92) *I Peripeties tou Ipiou Thermokipiou – To Spathi tou Stratilati (The Adventures of the Mild Greenhouse – The Sword of the Leader)*  
Athens, 2018, Psychogios Publishing House

## Interview with Sandra Eleftheriou

Skalatimes Magazines

Posted date: April 09, 2017

Award-winning illustrator and writer

by Yiota Demetriou

Award-winning illustrator, award-winning writer, collaborations with the largest publishing houses in Greece; such artistic personality that if you were to meet her without knowing what she does for a living, you would certainly guess she's an artist. Following her latest award by the Cyprus Board on Books for Young People, Skalatimes had a chat with Sandra Eleftheriou.

*What did your recent award by the Cyprus Board on Books for Young People mean to you?*

It meant quite a lot. It was a recognition of my contribution to Cypriot literature by the Board of which I've been a member for a number of years; it coincided with International Women's Day and writer Toula Kakoulli spoke about my work—she's someone I love, respect, and admire.

*Of course this wasn't the first time you were awarded a prize for book writing; in 2010 you were again a prize-winner along with Phytoula Vakana for the joint effort of writing the book "Apo tin poli erhome" ("I come from town") in the competition proclaimed by the Cyprus Board on Books for Young People and the prize set up by the Cultural Foundation of the Bank of Cyprus. And you had also won first prize for a short story titled "Stin hora tou Pote - Tipote" ("In the Land of Never - Nothing") in an online competition by the Paris Aristides Workshop for Creative Writing. Do you believe that winning awards facilitates the way for a writer?*

When you submit your script to a publishing house for consideration and it's accompanied by a biographical note that includes a list of awards and prizes, then it definitely works in your favour. But more important is the confirmation that what you are writing isn't liked by just you and your family.

*What drives an illustrator to the writing of books?*

I think that often those two paths cross. In both cases, pictures are essential; the writer describes, the illustrator draws.

*Illustrating was already a successful part of your life; in 2008 and 2009 you won first prize in an illustration competition by the Cyprus Board on Books for Young People, while in 2009 and 2010 you received the National Illustration prize set up by the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture. You are also the illustrator who will represent Cyprus on the IBBY Honourary List of 2012. In addition, you have*

*illustrated many books published by Psychogios and other Greek publishing houses. Yet, you chose to dive into the sea of writing. How do the two coexist?*

As an illustrator, my task is to transfer the writer's thoughts onto the pictures. Although I consider writing much easier, the writer is exposed and that is something I would rather avoid. If, however, I feel that I have something more to say, then I leave my shell and I write. And if I'm lucky enough, what I've written will be published.

*What topics do you like to tackle in your books?*

There are no specific topics, it's mostly topics that concern me; my reason for writing is to express a concern of mine through a story or a fairytale.

*In 2010 you received a commendation for your play "The Return of the Missing Prince," published by Pilio Publishing House. Was there a different feel or internal workings to the writing of a play? Was it ever produced? If not, would you like to see your play on stage?"*

No, it hasn't been made into a production but it's something I would really like. I hope someday it will go on.

*You have also busied yourself with two book translations...*

Yes, but a translator's work is terribly difficult, it's not something that would interest me nor have I ever attempted it. I don't feel I have the necessary knowledge. I panic at the responsibility towards the writer, perhaps because I love and respect writing so much.

*On the back of your book "The Keeper of Eight - The Beginning..." it says that "Every event in life, whether big or small, every person you meet, is a step towards your destiny." What are the basic steps that have led you to writing?*

Whenever I visit schools to talk to children about writing and illustrating, I always urge them to write. About anything. Writing is therapy, it's a journey, it's everything we experience. For me, it's vital, it's something I've done from a very young age and now I've the chance to share it with others through my books.

*You've collaborated with many publishing houses in both Greece and Cyprus. How easy is it today for a writer to be published in Greece?*

Not at all easy, even if you have a brilliant manuscript. Because it's fiercely competitive, publishers are not willing to invest in books they cannot sell or promote.

*What is your opinion of the publishing houses in Cyprus?*

I think it's a case where competition brings progress because there are publishers with vision. I'm glad some Cypriot publications enjoy world recognition and I'm sure more publishers will follow those examples.

*What books, which writers do you read and how do they influence, if at all, your own writing?*

Because of my job, I read children's literature as well as literature for teens. When I have the opportunity to read something else, my choice isn't about the subject-matter but the style of the writing. And, yes, if I read a good book, it's only logical that it will affect me, which is exactly the point of reading a book. To make us think, travel, and leave its mark on us.

*You live in Larnaca. How do you see the cultural side of our city?*

I rarely go out so every outing leaves me feeling like a tourist in my own city. It pleases me to see Larnaca blossom, things are happening, there's life out there past 9pm.

*Is a writer's place of residence important for their work?*

Every writer is affected in his subject-matter by the place he lives in since he receives different environmental stimuli.

*Finally, if I asked you to describe Sandra Eleftheriou in three words, what would they be?*

Sandra Georgiou Eleftheriou.

## Interview with writer and illustrator Sandra Eleftheriou

(deBóp - deBlog)

Sandra Eleftheriou has illustrated some of our favourite books, we've come to love the characters she has created and, every so often, our paths meet. Recently, her third book, "The keeper of 8" has been published.

*At deBóp we've come to know you as an illustrator. How did this magical journey into the world of colours and pictures begin? Do you remember the first book you illustrated?*

You don't forget your first book. It was "Stories for Children" written by Mrs Paionidou and published by K. Epifaniou. I had taken part in an art competition which led to my meeting the writer, Mrs Kakoulli. She introduced me to Mr Epifaniou and that's how our collaboration began.

*The illustrations in a book are probably the strongest means of encouraging a very young child to read and enjoy books. As an illustrator have you ever felt you had to create characters that children "had to" love in order to keep turning the pages of a book over and over again?*

The answer would be both yes and no. When I make pictures, I don't feel as if I'm working; I'm having fun. I read the story and the pictures that come to my mind I then put on paper. It's that simple. When you love what you do as much as I do, the rest follows. I believe all illustrators remain children at heart and that's why creating pictures for children is relatively easy.

*Of all the characters that you have brought to life is there one you are especially fond of?*

Hand on heart, every character I've created has been my favourite. Even each picture is my favourite — till I make the next one.

*Recently, in your book "The Keeper of 8" has been published by Ellinoekdotiki. How did the need to write come about? How was this particular story born?*

I have two more books in circulation: one is a play titled "The Return of the Missing Prince" which won first prize in a competition by the Cyprus Board on Books for Young People and also won an award by THOC (Cyprus Theatre Organisation) and was shortlisted for the Cyprus National Award for Literature. It's a book I co-wrote with my dear friend and writer Phytoula Vakana titled "I Come from the City..." My latest book, "The Keeper of 8 - The beginning..." is a first attempt to write something different, something more personal. I didn't write it with a specific purpose or publication in mind, I just wrote it because I felt the need to and because I enjoyed it so much. It's very important for me to know that Ellinoekdotiki wanted to publish it and that they love it as much as I do. It's a story of mystery, written

with a philosophical approach and a sense of humour that both a child and an adult can read and equally enjoy. I'm pleased there will be a continuation since it's a trilogy and I look forward to being with my heroes again; I want to see what they're up to!

*This may be a frequently asked question but it's one I always like to ask people who are equally involved in the writing as well as the illustrating of books. Do you prefer either one of those two procedures? Is it just as easy to express yourself through both writing and illustrating? And finally, how easy is it to write a story that's 180 pages long and fill each page up with emotions and mystery and is no longer addressed to younger children?*

I would say that if illustrating is my life, writing is my oxygen. I need it to feel balanced. I illustrate other people's ideas but I write for me. Whenever I feel confused (which seems to be happening alarmingly often!) I take refuge in writing. Anything. One sentence or a hundred pages. And something you do repeatedly, eventually becomes easy. Whether it's successful in the sense that it appeals to other people is an entirely different story. But so far the reviews have been excellent.

*Which are your favourite books either now as an adult or when you were a child? Which stories left their mark on you and which were the heroes you identified with?*

As a child, I enjoyed the stories of Oscar Wilde. I was so influenced by them that in my school essays all my main characters would die. I remember my teacher's comment in one of my notebooks: "Why don't you write about something real?" That's one notebook I've kept. As an adult, I'd say I've been influenced by Tom Robbins and his books.



Sandra Eleftheriou on Kokkini Alepou (Red Fox), online magazine for children's literature, Greece

We first met Sandra Eleftheriou, here on Kokkini Alepou through the first story of the “Mild Greenhouse” series, titled “The King’s Mask” (by Christos Demopoupou). Her artistic pursuits, however, go back a few years when, very displeased by her job at the time, she found an outlet in painting. According to her, her involvement in illustrating was accidental and magical. “During a visit to the shop where I bought my art supplies, I was asked to take part in a painting exhibition. Because of limited time, I decided to do sketches with cartoon characters. At the exhibition, I was told that writer Toula Kakoulli was also looking for an illustrator, so we met, she introduced me to the publisher K. Epifaniou, and I was offered work. And that’s how it started. I decided that in illustration I had found what I had been looking for so I studied graphic arts, resigned from my job and devoted myself to illustrating.”

Besides “The King’s Mask,” soon to be followed by the second book by Psychogios Publishing House, Sandra Eleftheriou has also illustrated more than fifty books — among those are “The Secret of the Claw” by Dionysis Leimonis for which she won first prize in the Illustration Competition of the Cyprus Board on Books for Young People (2007); “The Wheat” by Annie Theohari for which she was awarded the National Award for Illustration (2012); “Straight and Crooked” by Elli Paionidou (National Award for Illustration); “Easy Questions, Difficult Answers” by Ioanna Bakirtzi-Babeta; she was also the illustrator who represented Cyprus on the IBBY Honours List in 2012.

When asked where her inspiration comes from, she replied: “It’s difficult to pinpoint a specific source. I suppose it springs from my childhood and carries on into today. Something that impressed me or frightened me, something I loved or hated. A face, a gesture, a song, everything. Everything can form the beginning of a story or a picture.”

Sandra Eleftheriou lives and works in Cyprus.

Sandra Eleftheriou: An artist talks about her art (Teacherland, 11/01/2017)

The art of illustration is one that children are most familiar with. It's what gives colour and image to children's books and enchants young readers. Illustrator Sandra Eleftheriou, shares with us the secrets of her art. Sandra is also a writer who lives and works in Larnaca, Cyprus. She studied Graphic Arts and has worked as an illustrator since 2004. She has worked on more than fifty books and has received many awards for her illustrations. She has also received awards for her writing.

For Sandra, these are the basic rules of illustration:

- The characters, the colours and the mood of the illustrations must be age-appropriate
- The space of a picture is estimated by printing, cutting out and pasting the text onto the mockup
- The characters are created based on the writer's description of them
- The characters' size in the illustrations is in accordance to their significance in the story, not in relation to other objects or elements
- We read from left to right; similarly elements in a picture are placed from left to right depending on their importance