

A statement describing the candidate's contribution to literature for young people (by Dr. Costas Katsonis, philologist-author, Honorary President of IBBY Cyprus)

The artist and illustrator Dora Oronti

Dora Oronti is a well-known and prominent painter, who is one of the most distinguished and remarkable artists of contemporary Cypriot artistic creation. At the same time, Oronti is an important illustrator and author of our children's and youth literature. For her literary work and for her contribution in the field of children's-youth books she was honored by the Cyprus Association of Children and Youth Books (IBBY Cyprus) on March 14, 2013. Speaking about the work of Dora Oronti, in this honorary event, the well-known writer and former Minister of Education and Culture of Cyprus, Claire Angelidou (1) characteristically stated the following: *I met Dora in Limassol, after my uprooting from Famagusta. We worked together in the E' Gymnasium and later in Laniteio Lyceum B'... I went to her laboratory many times. I was enchanted by her art, the colours bright, cheerful, without shadows. A human being with many existential concerns and dreams. Multi-talented. She uses the paint and the pen in the same creative way.*

The above crucial and apt remarks of Claire Angelidou can be easily distinguished in her illustrated children's books, where the brightness and brilliance of the colors impress and sensitize the readers, young and old, causing feelings of joy and optimism. In her most recent, for example, children's book-with her own illustration, entitled *Creative Playing: 10 Stories for Children* (2), it is no coincidence that the basic and brighter colors, such as red, blue, green and yellow, dominate, in imaginative color combinations, overlapping all the pages of the book. Even the texts of the book, which make up the ten stories, are arranged and color-inspired in such a way that they are an integral part of this beautiful creative game of colors-a true color festival, that travels the souls of children to worlds; beautiful and magical. And all this lightness of colors that distinguishes her works, is an expression, a reflection, and a visual representation of her rich inner world, which is flooded by the light of joy, love, serenity, and the optimistic contemplation of life.

The creative relationship between discipline and freedom, which characterizes her artistic creation, highlights through the pages of her book *Game and Art* (3), which is the result of the Children's Art Workshop, which opened its gates in Limassol since 1999 onwards -after her own suggestion and with the support of Cultural Services of her country, aiming at the aesthetic education of children. The contribution of her book *The creation of experience and the experience of creation: Sound and colour* (4) is also similar, while her artistic skill as a children's book illustrator is also highlighted in her book *The Famous Mouse and her funny blunders*, a tale in seven stories for elementary school children (5), as well as in her teenage novel *The Golden Magic Balloon* (6).

Significant, in her creative career is the emblematic work *"Playtime in the courtyards of our Artists"*, which includes thirteen children's books, elaborately illustrated with selected works by great artists. And in these books, which are an important moment for the Cypriot children's literature and illustration, in her color choices the bright colors are again dominant, with the short texts that adorn the books being tied in an elaborate marriage and bond with illustration. As stated in the preface of the 1st book of the series (7), which is dedicated to Giannis Tsarouchis: *"the children's series "Playtime in the courtyards of our Artists" is an attempt to approach the subject through an "internal necessity" for the work and the surrounding space of each artist. It is a suggestion to remember or re-remember, touch or re-touch, study or re-study our artistic tradition, a tradition that continues to influence our contemporary artistic perception."*

This aesthetic result, that comes from Oronti's illustrated books, gives the opportunity to the child's eye to be *"lost"* in the atmosphere that the image can emit, with the complexity or austerity of her writing. In both cases, the unusual writing, the imagination, the freshness in the color, the economy in the space so that the child can *"breathe"*, create, spoil or re-compose, constitute the image of modern illustration in the Children's Literary Book.

Notes See.

1. Claire Angelidou: "The Writer-Artist Dora Oronti", Journal of Wind-Inspection of Cypriot Children's Literature, No. p. 21 (p. 190), CSNB Edition, Nicosia 2013.
2. Dora Oronti, Creative Playing: 10 stories for children, Limassol 2021.
3. Dora Oronti, Game and Art, Creative Relationship of Discipline - Freedom, Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Nicosia 2003.
4. Oronti Dora, The Creation of Experience and the Experience of Creation-Sound and Color, Nicosia 2000.
5. Dora Oronti, The Famous Mouse and her funny blunders-A tale in seven stories for elementary school children, Power Publishing Publications, Nicosia 2017.
6. Dora Oronti, The Golden Magic Balloon, Touch Editions, Nicosia 2012
7. Dora Oronti, Giannis Tsarouchis-The journey of the butterfly with the blue dots, Series, "Playtime in the Countryyards of our Artists ", No. 1, SOTI Publications, Athens 1999.

Dora Oronti (Biographical note)

Dora Oronti was born in Limassol-Cyprus.

As soon as she finished the Lycium she worked for a short time as an airhostess for BA.

Soon after she went to Athens for studies.

She studied Interior Design, (ITES Dipl., Distinction, 1970-72)

In 1974 she went to England where she studied Graphic Design (BA Honours, 1974-77) on a scholarship at the Exeter College of Art and Design, Exeter, England.

She is a member of the Society of Authors in London, a member of the Cypriot Society of Children's and Young People Literature, a member of the Women's Writers and Journalists, England, a member of INSEA (International Association for Education through Art) and a member of the F.A.M., an International Association by Unesco, for Peace, Art, Education and Child.

She worked as a teacher of Art and organiser of the Royal Academy of Dance for Cyprus for many years.

She founded two Art Workshops for children and adults, one in Episkopi village, 1980-82 and the other in Limassol 1998. Both the workshops were sponsored by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education.

The work that was done in Episkopi village was shown in 'The House of Cyprus' in New York.

For the three years work done in Limassol Art workshop, a colourful book, titled 'Games and Art' was published in 2003 by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education.

'The Creation of Experience and the Experience of Creation Sound and Colour, first published by the Paedagogical Institute Nicosia 1988, followed by 'En Typois' Publications 2000.

In 1987, after an invitation by Madema Gallery she showed her work in Hague, Holland. The whole work, 15 paintings, were bought by Madema Galery.

In 1990-91 after winning a Fulbright scholarship in the framework of Teachers Exchange Programmes, she worked as a teacher of Art in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

She worked for RIK TV programmes for children (The Red Bus) for many years, and presented the work, 'Art and Child', a series of programmes about Art and Artists.

In 1995 Nicosia was the Cultural Capital of Europe. She took part with a project which was inspired by 'Ledra.' That was the name of Nicosia at that time. (c.1800) The project was sponsored by Nicosia Municipality. It was a procession from Ledra street to Faneromeni Church, including Music, Dance, Poetry and Visual Art.

In 2003 at a competition from the Writers Workshop for the Writers' Forum, she got Highly Commended for her story 'The Echo of the Words'

On the 14th Annual British IBBY/NCRCL MA Children's Literature Conference, What Do You See? International Perspectives on Illustration, 2007, she presented her work, 'Discipline-Freedom, Tradition and Contemporary Creative Expression in Cypriot Picture Books: Can They Coexist?'

Her work and some children's illustrations, is among others in the 2008 book, 'What Do You See? International Perspectives on Children's Book Illustration', edited by Jennifer Harding and Pat Pinsent.

On the 15th Annual British IBBY/NCRCL MA Conference Comics and Graphic Novels for Young People, she presented her work 'Richard Felton Outcault and The Yellow Kid'.

As an Art teacher her love for children and the contact with them for many years was the spark for her to start writing and illustrating children's books.

In 1991 she started writing and illustrating children's books. This series of books includes 13 titles, covering the first post Byzantine Cypriot Artists. The series is titled: 'Games in the Gardens of our Artists.'

The two first Artists, are, A. Diamantis, 'The Trip of Little Rozou' and Chr. Savva,' 'The Trip of the Pin with the Red Little Head,' were published by the Ministry of Education.

Following that, Gudenbergh Publications in Athens, published the next four books. T. Kanthos, 'The Trip of the Leaf with the Green Shades,' Y. Tsarouxis, 'The Trip of the Butterfly with the Blue Spots,' I Kissonergis, 'The Trip of the Red Thread,' and Mpost,

'The Trip of the Little Flag with the White and Blue Stripes.'

The next seven books were published by Parga Publications, Nicosia.

They are the following:

Pol.Georgiou, 'The Trip of the Prickly Pear with the Pink and Yellow Petals,' Loukia Nikolaidou, 'The trip of the Hat with the Yellow Ribbons,' Vincent Van Gogh, 'The Trip of the Sunflower with the Green Seeds,' K |Parthenis, The Trip of the Little Harp,' G. Mpouzianis, The Trip of the Little Umbrella,' S. Fragoulides, 'The Trip of the Blue Ribbon,' B. Ioannides, 'The Trip of the Little Boat with the Red Keel.'

Books in English for Young People:

'Jake and the Ladder and other Blue-Knotty Tales.' Pen Press Publishers LTD, London, 2003.

'Beatrice and Benedict' 1st edition, Chr. Georgiou and Sons Ltd., Limassol, 2010, 2nd edition, Chr. Georgiou and Sons Ltd., 2011. The book was edited by Pat Pinsent and presented by Pat Pinsent in the House of the Society of Authors, London, 2011.

Book in Greek for Young People: AFI Publications, 2012.

'The Golden Magical Balloon.' The book was highly commended from the Ministry of Education, for the Awards for Young People.

1st edition 2012, 2nd edition 2016.

Books for children: 'The Famous Mouse and her Funny Blunders. Couarteble? What Is It?' Power Publishing, Nicosia, 1917.

Creative Play. Lellos Bookbinding Limasool, 2020.

Translated in English by Greta Holman and edited by Pat Pinsent. 2020.

Ready to be published in English by Chr. Georgiou and Sons Ltd.

As a visual artist her work was shown in solo and group exhibitions. In Cyprus, Greece, New York, Mexico City, Oaxaca, Morocco and Holland.

In 1983 she showed her work in Mexico City and Oaxaca in the frame work of Artists Exchange Programme of the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education.

In Mexico city, La Casa de la Cultura offered a studio to her where she worked for three months.

In 1987 she was invited to take part at a plenair where she worked for a month with artists from other countries at a place called Kazanlouk. All the work was shown in the garden of the House that the artists were hospitalized.

In 2000 Dora Oronti did the stage design for THOK with the play:
'The Cat who always went where ever she wanted.'

In 2019 the University of Neapolis in Paphos, held an honorary exhibition for Oronti's work, as a sign of appreciation for her work in Art and Writing.

In 2002 Exposition by Women Artists in Rodus island,
organized by F.A.M. An International Association by UNESCO for Peace, Art,
Education and Child.

In 2005 Exposition by Women Artists organized by F.A.M.

Since 1975 she has presented her work in England, Cyprus, Greece, USA, Mexico,
India, Egypt, Morocco in solo and group exhibitions.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1979 Polytopo Gallery, Limassol, Cyprus.
- 1981 Zygos Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 1982 The House of Cyprus, New York, U.S.A.
- 1982 Argo Gallery, Athens, Greece.
- 1983 Foro Coyoacanence, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1983 Oaxaca, Mexico.
- 1984 Gloria Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 1984 Westbroadway Gallery, Manhattan, New York.
- 1985 Themelio Gallery, Limassol, Cyprus.
- 1986 ORA Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 1987 Madema Gallery, Hague, Holland.
- 1989 Gloria Gallery Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 1990 Morfi Gallery, Limassol, Cyprus.
- 1994 Gloria Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 1995 European Cultural Month, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 1996 Peiades Gallery, Athens, Greece.
- 1997 Morfi Gallery, Limassol, Cyprus.
- 2000 Rouan Galley, Limasso, Cyprus.
- 2003 Cyprus Corner Gallery, Larnaca Cyprus.
- 2007 Technis Dromena Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 2008 Silks Gallery, Limassol, Cyprus.
- 2015 Is not Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1975 Exe Gallery, Exeter, England.
- 1976 Victoria and Albert Museum.
- 1978 Cypriot Artists Show, Hilton, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 1979 Polytopo Gallery, Limassol, Cyprus, Titled 'Limassol that is lost.
- 1982 Kochlias Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus. Two Cypriot Artists. Andreas Chrysochos-Dora Oronti.
- 1983 Paris, France 'Exposition de Peinture, Chypriote Contemporain.'
- 1983 Contemporary Cypriot Artists, Athens, Greece.
- 1983 Rembrant Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus. '17 Cypriot Artists.'
- 1984 Renbrant Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus, 'Cypriot Women Artists.' 1987 Athens, Greece, 'Cypriot Artists.'
- 1987 Gloria Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus, 'Ten Years Anniversary.'
- 1988 Kuwait Biennale.
- 1989 Soviet Union, 'Contemporary Cypriot Art.'
- 1989 Belgrade, 'Contemporary Cypriot Art.'
- 1990 New Delhi 'Contemporary Cypriot Art.'
- 1992 'Cairo Biennale.'
- 1995 National Gallery ' Visual Retrospective.'
- 1995 European Cultural Month, Nicosia, Cyprus, 'Procession Eos tis Komis Ledron.' Street Theatre, Stage Design, Installation, Costumes, Production, Dora Oronti.
- 1996 Municipality Arts Centre, Nicosia, Cyprus, ΙΧΘΥΣ.'
- 2002 Cypriot Artists of the 3rd Millennium. Zampelas Art Ltd., Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 2002 Rhodes, Greece, 2nd International Forum for a Culture of Peace by Mediterranean Women Creators.
- 2005 Morroco Exposition by Women Artists organized by F.A.M.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A series of books that includes 13 titles, covering the first post Byzantine Cypriot Artists: 'Games in the Gardens of Our Artists.'

- A.Diamantis, 'The Trip of Little Rozou.'
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(published by the Ministry of Education)

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- Kissonergis, 'The Trip of the Red Thread.'
- Mpostanzoglou, 'The Trip of the Little Flag with the

White and Blue Stripes.'

The next seven books were published by PARGA Publications:

- Pol. Georgiou, 'The trip of the Prickly Pear with the Pink and Yellow Petals.'
- Loukia Nicolaidou, 'The Trip of the Hat with the Yellow Ribbons.'
- Vincent Van Gogh, 'The Trip of the Sunflower with the Green Seeds.'
- K.Parthenis, 'The Trip of the Little Harp.'
- G. Mpouzianis, 'The trip of the Little Umbrella.'
- S. Fragoulides, 'The Trip of the Blue Ribbons.'
- B. Ioannides, 'The Trip of the Little Boat with the Red Keel.'

Other Books for Children in Greek:

- 'Games and Art.' Published by the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education, Nicosia, Cyprus, 2003.
- 'The Famous Mouse and her Funny Blunders. Couartable? What is it?' Power Publishing, Nicosia, 2017.
- 'Creative Play.' Typography, Lellos Bookbinding Ltd. Limassol, Cyprus, 2020.

Books for Young People in English:

- 'Jake and the Ladder and other Blu- Knotty Tales.'

Pen Press Publishers LTD, London 2003.

- 'Beatrice and Benedict' 1st Edition, Chr. Georgiou and Sons Ltd., Limassol, 2010, 2nd Edition, Chr. Georgiou and Sons, Ltd., 2011, Limassol, Cyprus.
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Book for Young People in Greek:

- 'The Golden Magical Balloon.' AFI Publications 2012, Limassol, Cyprus. 2nd Publication, Chr. Georgiou and Sons Ltd., Limassol, Cyprus, 2016.

Academic book for teachers:

- 'The Creation of Experience and the Experience of Creation, Sound and Colour.' First published by the Paedagogical Institute, Nicosia, 1988, followed by 'En Typois' Publications. 2000.

Two books for children, not yet published:

- 'The Echo of the Words,' in English.
- 'The Echo of Yiagovitsa,' in Greek.