



# PALIMPSEST WORLDS

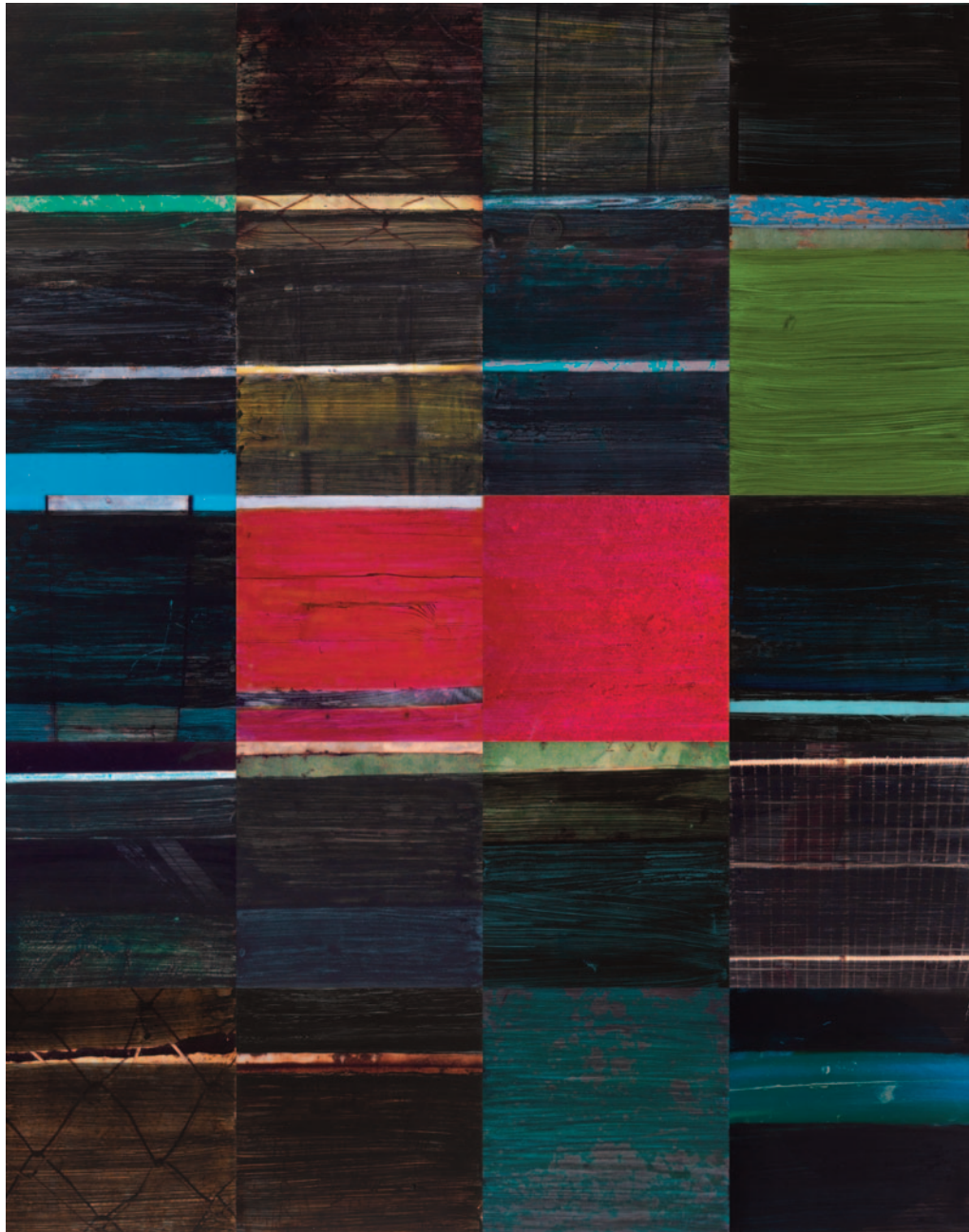
#cy2026eu

The art exhibition *Palimpsest Worlds* part of the Cultural Programme of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026, serves as an artistic metaphor for European identity itself: a coexistence of many voices, histories and cultures sharing a common present. It is a parallel, interactive journey through time and history, bridging the old with the new, the past with the contemporary. An artistic reality and at the same time an open narrative, constantly revised and generating new syntheses.

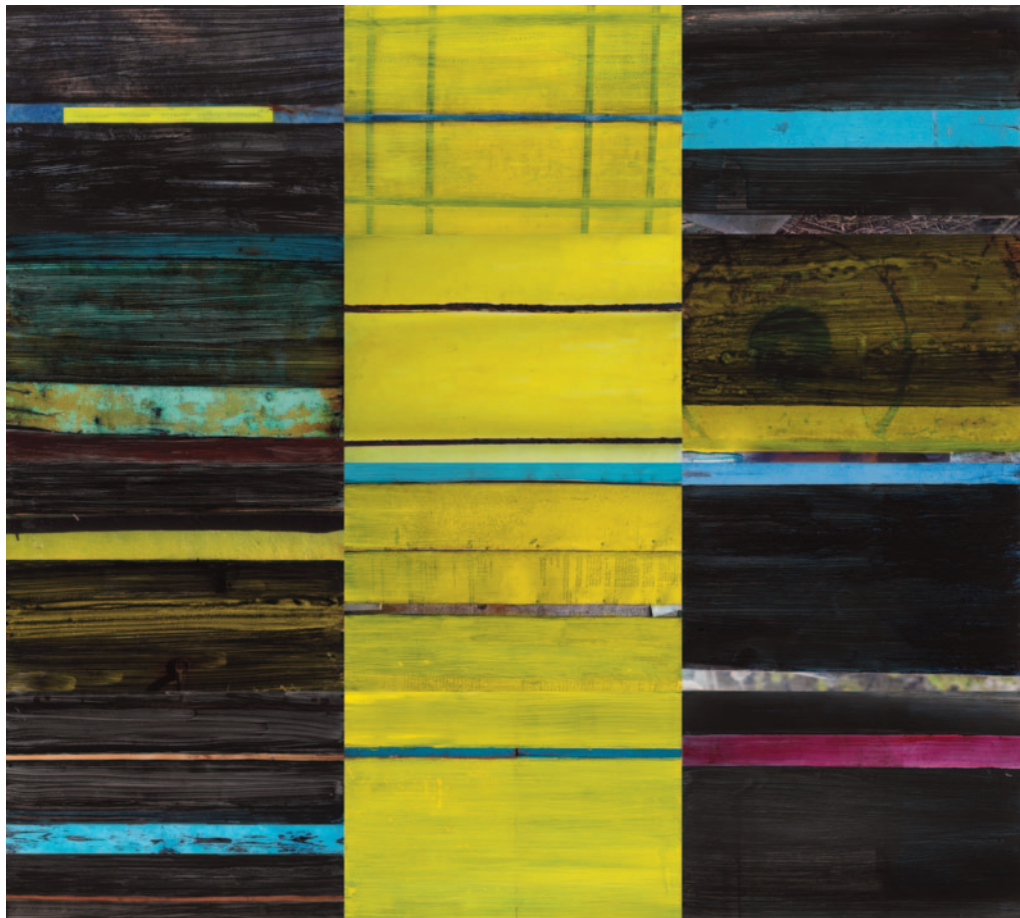
The exhibition does not simply focus on the values of collective memory through rewriting; it also functions as an artistic commentary on cultural diversity and on the dialogue between traditions and contemporary creation.

Artist Toula Liasi, in collaboration with the *4ELEGY Project* (Elena Parouti and Irene Stavrou), explores the concept of the palimpsest by creating multiple layers in which history and the past remain visible and in continuous dialogue with the present. At the same time, Eva Stavrou's music acts as a sonic bridge, enriching and enhancing the exhibition's multilayered visual result.

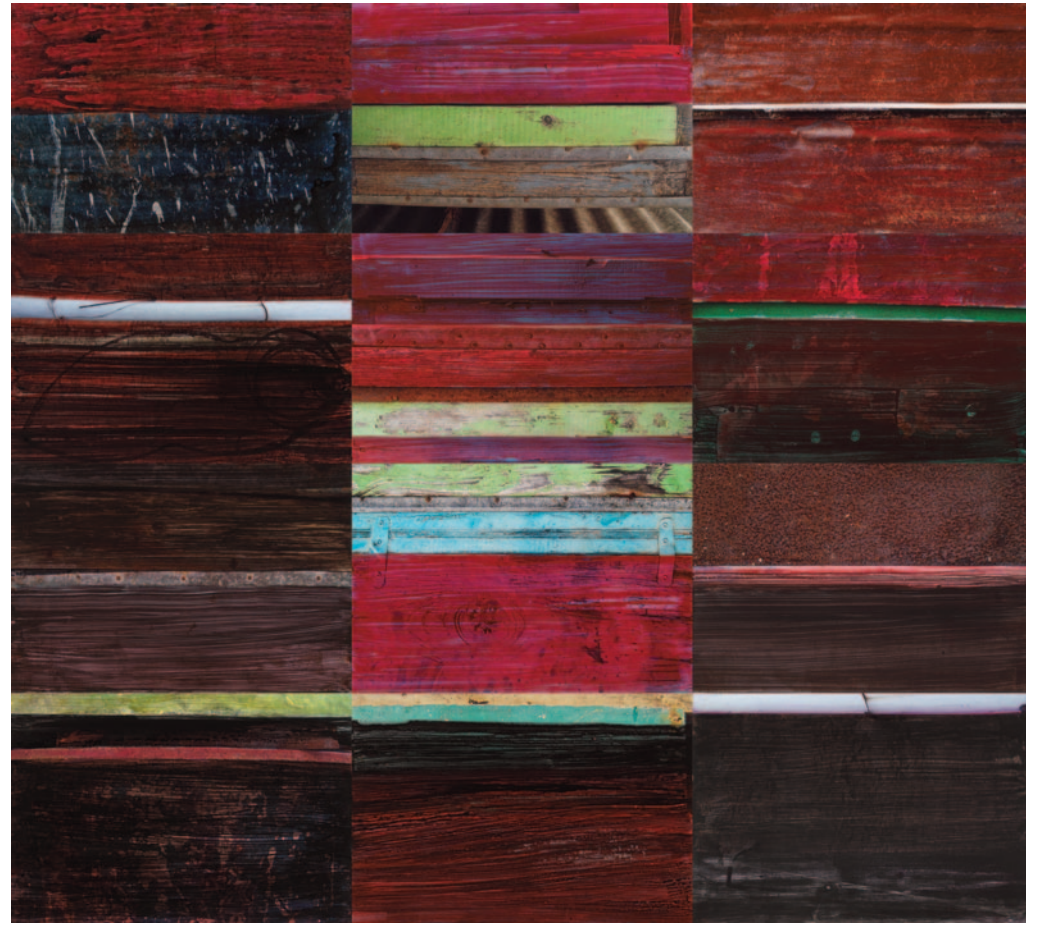
As a team as well as individual creators with distinct voices, the participants believe that art can highlight different aspects of Cypriot history, thereby showcasing their rich cultural identity.



*The Inevitable Consequences of Creation*  
photo collage, acrylic, 75x60 cm, 2023



*The Daily, Tangible and Repetitive Reality I*  
photo collage, acrylic, 81x90 cm, 2023



*The Daily, Tangible and Repetitive Reality II*  
photo collage, acrylic, 81x90 cm, 2023



*A Reason for Undisturbed Contemplation*  
photo collage, acrylic, 75x60 cm, 2023

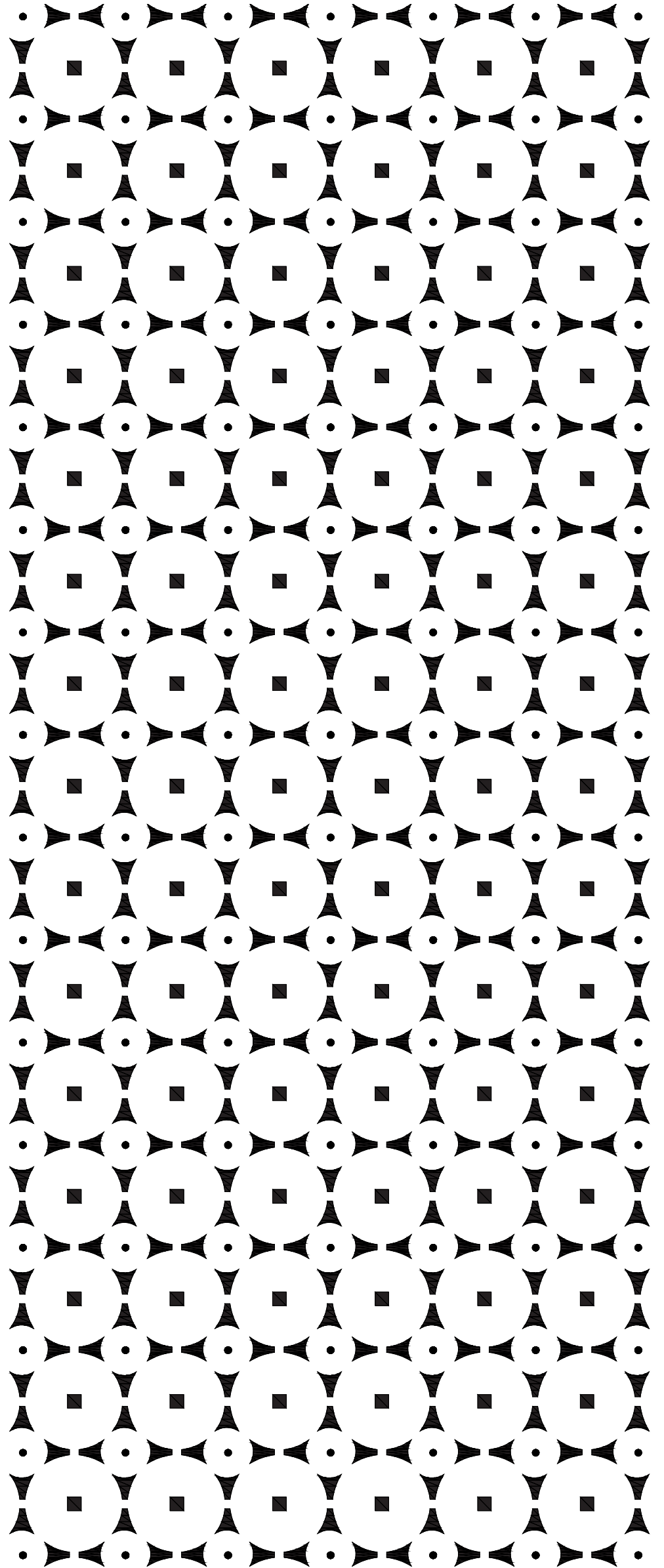
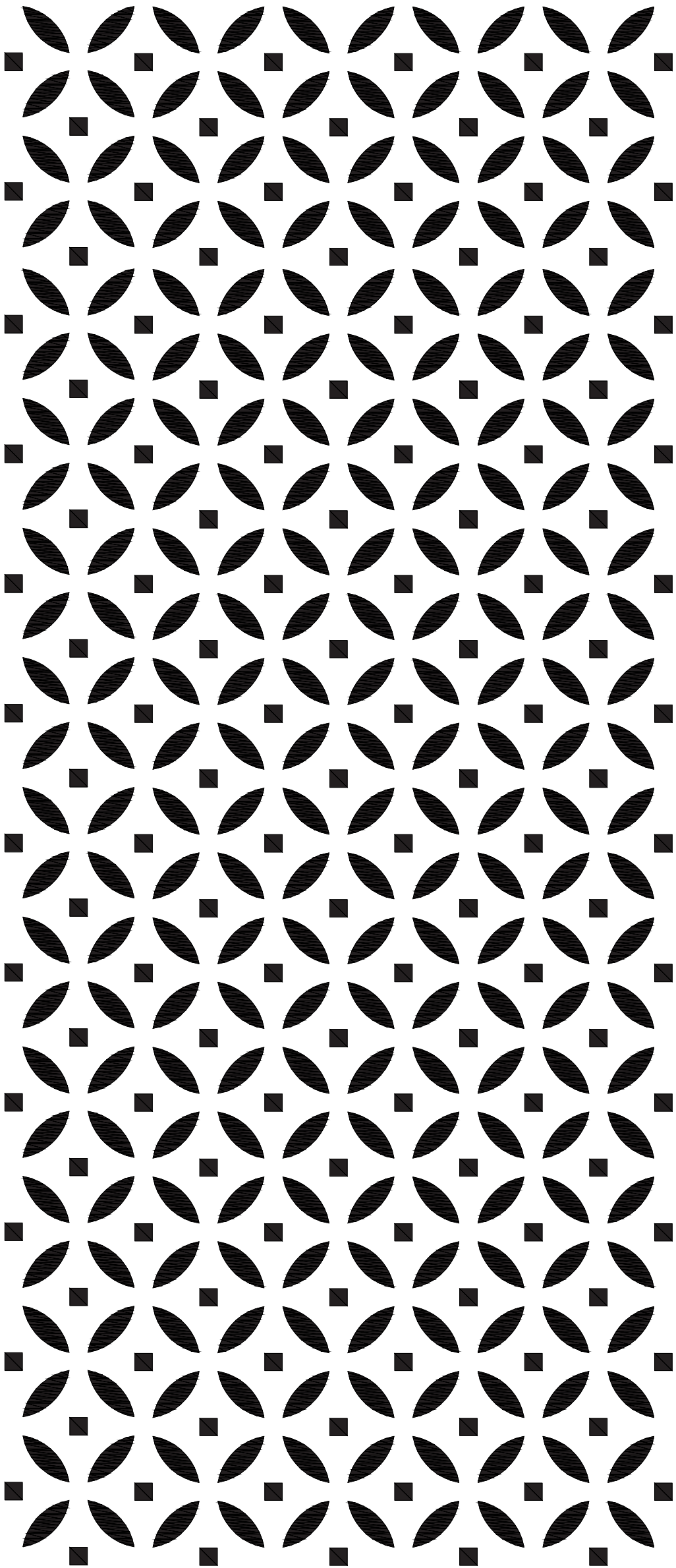




PHOTO: DEMETRIUS VARTIS

#### TOULA LIASI

The visual artist Toulia Liasi approaches the palimpsest metaphorically as memory. The photographic and painted collages she presents are part of her recent project *Synchronizing History*, which focuses on her family home in Agia Triada and negotiates its history and objects. The village lies in the northern part of the island, which has been under Turkish control since 1974. The collages are creations inspired by old objects and textiles from her ancestral home.

Toulia Liasi (1957) began her studies in Fine Arts in Athens (1977–1980) and continued at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in The Hague (1980–1984). Later, she completed studies in Fine Arts in Education (BA) at the Willem de Kooning Academy (2004–2006), as well as postgraduate studies at the Piet Zwart Institute (MA) in Rotterdam (2013–2015). Since 1980, she has been living in the Hague, working as an artist, while for several years she served as an art teacher in Dutch secondary schools. She presented her work in many solo and group exhibitions in Cyprus, Netherlands and different countries in Europe.

Over the last two decades, her artwork has dealt with the difficult aspects of the recent history of Cyprus. Her main source of inspiration comes from personal experiences and events related to the issues of the missing persons and the enclaved people in Karpasia. Issues that, although they are very personal, are at the same time public. [www.toulialiasi.nl](http://www.toulialiasi.nl)

#### 4ELEGY PROJECT

Architect Elena Parouti and communications professional Irene Stavrou met creatively in 2021 and have since been exploring the mosaic patterns of Cyprus's archaeological sites including the one of Liasi's village. These static motifs, born from the hard surfaces of mosaics and ancient remains, acquire movement and rhythm. They are transferred onto fabric surfaces, transformed, and generate new three-dimensional perspectives, opening a dialogue between textures, materials and eras.

**Elena Parouti** is an architect and founding member of EPITESSERA Architects in Nicosia. A graduate of the School of Architecture at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, she has over 25 years of professional experience in the design and supervision of residential, educational, and heritage projects.

She has participated in the Venice Architecture Biennale as part of Cyprus's official national delegation and contributed to the Horizon 2020 research program ACCEPT, reflecting her interest in innovation in architecture. Recognized in architectural competitions, she has also served on competition juries and actively participates in scientific committees and working groups of the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber. In recent years, she has expanded her practice to include collaborative projects with artists and designers.

**Irene Stavrou** is a professional in the fields of communication and strategic marketing, holding a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Cyprus Institute of Marketing. Since 2014, she has been working in advertising, branding, and cultural production, developing a multifaceted body of work that blends strategic thinking with creative identity. At the same time, she is also studying Silversmithing at the Technical School of Nicosia, advancing her engagement with contemporary handcrafted art.

In 2021, she co-founded the *4ELEGY Project* with Elena Parouti—an artistic initiative that reinterprets Cypriot archaeological patterns into wearable art. As the creator of the ELEGY Art Concept, she has participated in selected art exhibitions, presenting works that explore memory, materiality, and cultural identity through contemporary modes of storytelling.

**EVA STAVROU** is one of the most active flutists of her generation, with a strong focus on contemporary music. She has appeared at festivals such as Darmstadt (Germany), Time of Music (Finland), and New Music Week (Rome), and has attended masterclasses with composers such as Beat Furrer and Kaija Saariaho. She studied in France (Université Lumière Lyon 2, CRR de Lyon) and completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees with distinction at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels.

She has performed in concerts in Cyprus, Greece, England, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, and Finland, as a member of orchestras, chamber music ensembles, and interdisciplinary projects. She maintains ongoing collaborations with composers such as Brice Catherin, Faidros Kavallaris, and Christina Athinodorou, actively contributing to the promotion of contemporary music in Cyprus and abroad. Her first solo album, featuring works by composers she has closely collaborated with, is scheduled for release in 2026.

She teaches flute at the Music Schools of Cyprus, aiming to instill a love for the Arts and introduce young people to the world of contemporary music. [www.evastavrou.com](http://www.evastavrou.com)

## Palimpsest Worlds

Held on the occasion of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU 2026

### Artists

Toulia Liasi, Elena Parouti, Irene Stavrou, Eva Stavrou

### Opening

Thursday 26 March 2026, 18:00

### Duration

26 March–26 April 2026

### Opening hours

Tuesday–Sunday 12:00–17:00

At the opening, Cypriot flutist Eva Stavrou will perform her music composition *Breaths*.

### Pulchri Studio

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