



Colours of Cyprus

The Third Season- 'A Time In Cyprus' exhibition, Sydney NSW: March 26th- April 5th.

A Time In Cyprus by artist Valentina Jones is a colourful exhibition of 40 paintings based on her 2008 travels to Cyprus, visiting relatives.

The acrylic and oil paintings are quirky and whimsical...

You can see this exhibition by visiting The Red Door Gallery in Summer Hill, NSW.

Opening Night is Thursday 26 March 2009

Time: 6.00 – 8.00pm

Address: The Red Door Gallery • 24 Morris St, Summer Hill, NSW.

I have been involved in the arts for as long as I can remember. From an early age I discovered my creative side when I won 1st place in an art prize in kindergarten. Thirty years have passed and I still enjoy art every day. I am inspired by colour, objects and people. Having someone purchase my art for display in their house is an enormous thrill.

Raised in Sydney, Valentina Jones studied at both Visual Arts and Visual Communications graduating in 1988. Valentina is a Graphic Designer and Illustrator by day and a keen visual artist outside normal working hours. Her style is quirky and whimsical, with a focus on colour. Acrylic is her current medium of choice. Valentina has had many of her illustrations published in a number of various magazines.

August 2007 saw the exhibition 'Your Other Place' at Cafe Bo Bo. The exhibition received an overwhelming response with the majority of paintings sold. The theme hints of that place of day dreams, deep within the imagination and was inspired by many travels in the pacific islands.

Valentina's exhibition at the Red Door Gallery in Summer Hill in March 2008 was a success.

Painter Yiannis Palaiologos dies

Contemporary Greek artist Yiannis Palaiologos passed away on Tuesday at the age of 52, after a bout with cancer.

Palaiologos was one of the top representatives of modern Greek figurative painting, and a student of Yiannis Tsarouchis, with whom he had collaborated in the decoration of the renowned Athenian cinema theater Rex.

His works have been presented in numerous one-man shows and group exhibitions, while one of his most recent paintings is on display at the Athens War Museum in a group exhibition titled 4 Seasons, which runs through Sunday.

His funeral was held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Koropi cemetery, northeast of Athens.

Odysseus could have chosen the stockbroker's path. He didn't.

Marcus Padley

ITHACA is the Greek island that Odysseus has so much trouble returning to in Homer's Odyssey. On his way he survives run-ins with the Cicones, Polyphemus (Cyclops to you), Circe, the Sirens, Scylla, the winds of Aeolus, the Laestrygonians, Zeus, Poseidon and Calypso.

A rough trot, and when he gets there no one recognises him, everyone's cracking onto his wife, she won't have him back and he has to kill everyone. Hardly a great homecoming. You wonder why he bothered. Thankfully a Greek called Constantine Kavafis wrote a poem in 1911 explaining it. It was called Ithaca. You may know it. Here is a bit of it.

Keep Ithaca always in your mind.

Arriving there is what you're destined for.

But don't hurry the journey at all.

Better if it lasts for years,

so you're old by the time you reach the island,

wealthy with all you've gained on the way,

not expecting Ithaca to make you rich.

Ithaca gave you the marvellous journey.

Without her you wouldn't have set out.

She has nothing left to give you now.

And if you find her poor, Ithaca won't have fooled you.

Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,

you'll have understood by then what these Ithacas mean.



Turns out that life's destination isn't much, but it doesn't matter. It is what you do on the way. That old chestnut. It's better to travel than arrive. It is the journey, not the destination. And I am on the road to Ithaca.

My road consists of an office, full of people I have not chosen, in an industry that chose me, doing little more heroic than pushing electrons around on two big computer screens that really can't be healthy. In fact I'm doing it now. If Odysseus came into the office, I and all my colleagues would rightly be shamed in his presence for all that we have not done. I'm sure Odysseus could have chosen the path of a stockbroker but he didn't. Our journey is not heroic.

Then there is my father. He is getting on. He is 75. He was a wing commander in the RAF and, more topically, spent a three-year posting on an RAAF base in Sale in Victoria flashing around in de Havilland Vampire jets, spotting bushfires, teaching people to fly and generally ripping it up like Tom Cruise on valium. He had stories, his Cyclops,

his Poseidon (Suez Crisis) and a few Sirens I'm sure. He is closer to Odysseus than I and I am proud to have him as my example. He has journeyed well and hopefully that has made him "so full of experience" that as he comes closer to Ithaca he now knows to continue the ride, rather than dwell on where it all got him, when the destination will arrive and how scared that makes him. Meanwhile, back in the office, I am trying to live a life "full of adventure, full of discovery" in an environment that doesn't naturally lend itself to a danger that "keeps your thoughts raised high", offers "rare excitement" and generates a fear that "stirs your spirit and your body".

Then along came the bear market. Suddenly the journey has become more interesting. We have entered places we are "seeing for the first time", full of discovery and adventure. By the time we reach the island, yes, we'll be wealthy with all we've gained on the way but it won't be in dollars and, unlike our Greek friend, we think it'd be better if it didn't last for years.

I know people who are not entirely happy with where they have got to on this journey. I have met people who now fear their destination because of what the journey has recently done to them. You don't have to look far. But while there is breath in our bodies we are still travelling and this is not the end. We have no choice. We have to accept and focus on a miraculous journey, to a destination, that I know, will not be measured in dollars.

The article appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald

Marcus Padley is a stockbroker with Patersons Securities and the author of the daily stockmarket newsletter Marcus Today.

Harmony Day Festival 2009

The AFL, AFP and DIAC are holding a family fun day at Belmore Oval on Sunday 15 March. The Harmony Day Festival 2009 will feature football activities, cultural entertainment, dance workshops, prizes and giveaways and much more. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebrations.

