

PRESS RELEASE

VENICE BIENNALE 2007
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Representation of Cyprus at the 52nd International Exhibition of Contemporary Art
(10 June – 21 November 2007)

The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture would like to announce that the artists selected to represent Cyprus at the 52nd Venice Biennial of Contemporary Art are **Haris Epaminonda** and **Mustafa Hulusi**.

Denise Robinson, the Curator for Cyprus at this year's Biennial, was responsible for selecting the artists among a total of 65 participation proposals. During her last visit to Cyprus in January, the curator reviewed the submitted material and made studio visits to Cypriot artists locally and abroad. The proposal for the representation of Cyprus was finalised earlier this month.

Biographical information on the selected artists:

Haris Epaminonda

Born 1980 in Nicosia, Cyprus

Lives and works in Nicosia and London

HYPERLINK "<http://www.harisepaminonda.com>" www.harisepaminonda.com

Education 1998 - 1997: Chelsea College of Art & Design, London / 2001 - 1998: Kingston University, London / 2003 - 2001: Royal College of Art, London (MA Printmaking) **Solo exhibitions** 2006: Haris Epaminonda, Domobaal, London **Selected group exhibitions** 2007: I am Future Melancholic_tank.tv, Tate Modern, London / Art Rotterdam, represented by Domobaal / 2006: Gift, MuseumMan, Liverpool Biennial / Haris Epaminonda & Daniel Gustav Cramer, Pharos CCA, Nicosia / Drawing Screen, Tint gallery, Thessaloniki / East International, Norwich, UK / What remains is Future, Patras, Greece / Fresh, Macao Museum of Art, China / 2005: Artist's Books, Qbox gallery, Athens / Peripheral Visions, Cork Film Center, Ireland / 12th Biennale for Young Artists, Naples / Accidental Meetings, Municipal Arts Centre, Nicosia / 2004: 21st World Wide Video Festival, Amsterdam / Hi-Lite 5, Archimede Staffolini gallery, Nicosia **Residencies** 2007-2008: Kuensterhaus Bethanien, Berlin / 2002: Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris.

In Venice, Epaminonda will present a series of collages, and a video works. The artist has previously produced videos filmed from the television screen, she isolates and re-inscribes images, and sound, constituted by the implications of the shock of that moment when a fragment is torn from its context. Its an encounter with the vicissitudes of memory. As a series of mediations on image and sense, she wishes to 'loosen thought' and in Venice will also include work associated with the collection of the National Broadcast archives.

Mustafa Hulusi

Born 1971 in London, UK

Lives and works in London

HYPERLINK "http://www.mustafahulusi.com" www.mustafahulusi.com

Education 1992 - 1995: Goldsmiths College, London / 2002 - 1995: Royal College of Art, London (MA Photography) **Solo exhibitions** 2005: The End of the West, Max Wigram Gallery, London / Mustafa Hulusi too, Rachmaninoffs, London **Selected group exhibitions 2007:** Abstraction, Millenium Galleries, Sheffield / **2006:** Into Me-Out of Me, PS 1, New York; Kunst Werke, Berlin / To Here, Bloomberg Space, London / Right on – Write Off, The great Unsigned, Chapman Fine Arts, London / **2005:** East International 05, Norwich / Culture Bound, Courtauld Institute, London / **2004:** New Contemporaries 04, 14 Wharf Road, London **Curated Exhibitions 2004:** Expander, Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington gardens, London / The Progressive development Plan, Wadeson Street, London.

For his presentation in Venice, Hulusi, born in London, a Turkish Cypriot from the diaspora, will install large scale, meticulous, technicolour photo-realist paintings of flora and fruit indigenous to Cyprus, based on photographs taken on his returns to the island. His series of professionally illustrated images, entitled 'The Elysian Paintings', carry a faint trace of early 20th century visual languages of political propaganda, sometimes bordering on the kitsch, while their luminous surfaces show a less solid flesh than we expect to find in this world. They will form a total environment surpassing any idea that this is a painting exhibition. they exist in the territory between estrangement and enchantment.

The Cyprus Pavilion at the Venice Biennial is at **Palazzo Malipiero** HYPERLINK "http://www.palazzomalipiero.com" <http://www.palazzomalipiero.com> . Preview for Press and accredited art professionals starts on 6 June 2007. The exhibition opens to the public on 10 June.

For more information, please contact:

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