

COMMUNITY

# Contemporary Cypriot Art Exhibition for the 50 years since the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus



Cypriot filmmaker Vicki Psarias

The exhibition, motivated by the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus, aims at a critical self-examination and look upon the place and its people.

It includes contemporary works by Cypriot artists, which 'look awry' – that is, they look in critical, examining, subversive, thoughtful and humorous ways – upon ourselves, our recent past, our present and whichever possible future.

This 'awry' look (taking a cue from a short dialogue in Shakespeare's Richard II, and the dialogue's analysis by Slavoj Žižek, in "Looking Awry" (1989), aims at 'seeing' ourselves and our state in its proper dimensions, in contrast to the 'head on', seemingly direct view that has been (re)produced by the official, dominant rhetoric of the institutions and the mechanisms that have been defining us, ever since the establishment of the Cypriot state.

The exhibition includes paintings, sculptures, video

art, constructions, audio-visual installations and short films, by the many artists (see list below) and British Cypriot filmmaker Vicki Psarias will be screening her award winning debut short drama film *Rifts* at the exhibition. Starring Vasilis Panayi and Osman Balikdjioğlu as warring kebab shop owners in London who finally realise their fighting is futile.

in Cyprus marking 50 years of independence.

List of contributing artists and filmmakers: Yianna Amerikanou, Antonis Antoniou, Klitsa Antoniou, Helene Black, Marianna Christofides, Yian-nos Economou, Mustafa Erkan, Tatiana Ferahian, GRUP 102 (Ozge Ertanin, Oya Silbery, Evren Erkut), Yioula Hatzigeorgiou, Andreas Karayan, Diomedes Koufteros,

Yetkinel and Talat Gokdemri.

**Opening: 17 November 2010, 19.30, Evagoras Lanitis Centre, Limassol.** The exhibition's opening includes a performance directed by Ellada Evangelou. Duration: 17 November–17 December 2010, Evagoras Lanitis Centre, Limassol. **Opening days and hours: Tuesday-Sunday: 12:00-20:00**

(Design-Curation: Antonis



The film has screened at film festival internationally winning several accolades including Best Film at the European Commissioned Euromedcafe International Film Festival for films exploring cultural dialogue and Vicki is honoured, that 6 years since making her film, it will screen

Georgios Koukoumas, Atesh Kozal, Lia Lapithi, Stella Michaelidou, Marina Olympios, Vicky Pericleous, Vicki Psarias, Andreas Savva, Christiana Solomou, Katy Stephanidou, Nicos Synnos, Elina Theodotou, Evgenia Vasiloude, Washing-Up Ladies (Marianna Karafidou, Lia Lapithi), Omer

Danos, Lecturer in Art History and Theory, Cyprus University of Technology. Organised by the Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts [EKATE]. Sponsored by the Cultural Services of the Ministry Education and Culture, Cyprus. Supported by the Cyprus University of Technology.

# London Greek Film Festival 2010



The 3rd annual London Greek Film Festival opens its doors on Monday 8th November; a cultural event that has rightfully secured a place in the film lovers' calendar.

This year's festival has been upgraded, most notably through its new premises. The week long screenings (8-14 November) will be held at Westbourne Studios in west London (242 Acklam Road, Notting Hill, London W10 5JJ), an impressive space conveniently situated just a few yards away from Portobello. This multi-purpose artistic venue has hosted a number of other big festivals and cultural events.

The 2010 London Greek Film Festival presents more than 45 short and feature films, documentaries, experimental films and video-art productions in competition. The Festival also emphasises the importance of networking, featuring a number of workshops under the guidance of experienced film professionals, networking events for

the organisers, the participants and the visitors, as well as a special social networking party.

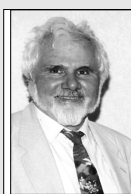
The Odysseus Awards ceremony on Monday 15th November will see the 3rd London Greek Film Festival moving to Mythopolis (277 City Road, Islington, London EC1V 1LA) a cosy venue that has been established as the most popular with Greeks and foreign fans of good Greek music alike.

Online Box Office: [www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/tickets.htm](http://www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/tickets.htm). To book in advance for the Odysseus Awards: [www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/events.htm](http://www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/events.htm) (Seats for this event are limited)

For the screenings schedule [www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/program.htm](http://www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/program.htm)

For more information please visit: [www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/Contact](http://www.londongreekfilmfestival.com/Contact): General info: [info@londongreekfilmfestival.com](mailto:info@londongreekfilmfestival.com). Press Office: [press-office@londongreekfilm-festival.com](mailto:press-office@londongreekfilm-festival.com). Tel.: 020 7193 2699 (+44 20 7193 2699).

# World Bank reports on neo-colonial farmland grab



By Chris Lazou

The 1960s has been a decolonization decade, but with the advent of globalization neo-colonial exploitation has surged again and is getting worse. The Iraq and Afghan occupations are but two recent examples of how far Imperial powers are prepared to go, committing atrocities and killing hundreds of thousands and displacing millions of innocent civilians, to grab vital resources.

A long-delayed 164 page fact finding report by the World Bank titled: "Rising Global Interest in Farmland", describes how the neo-colonial rush for global farmland has grown dramatically since the food scare of 2007-2008. Purchases of farmland in developing countries, by foreigners, rose to 45million hectares in 2009, a ten-fold jump from levels of the last decade. Two thirds have been in Africa, where government restrictions are weak.

Western agribusinesses and hedge funds are competing

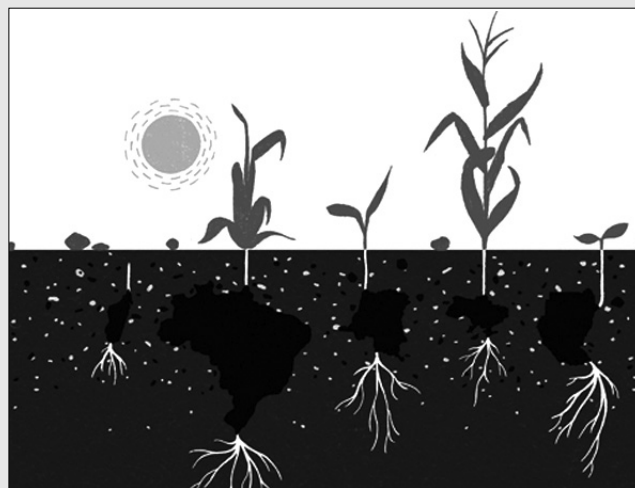
with sovereign wealth funds from the Mid-East, as well as state-entities from China, the Pacific Rim and India to buy land for controlling the world's future food supply. The NGO GRAIN, and farmland-grab.com, have both documented this rush in detail. Hedge funds that made fortunes in US housing sub-prime bonds foresee that productive agricultural land with water on site will be very valuable in the future and moved in.

There are signs that this land grab has set off a backlash. Brazil has passed a decree limiting acreage held by foreign-owned companies. Brazilian authorities are also checking whether firms are using local companies as fronts to disguise investment in places such as Mato Grosso and Amazonia. "Brazilian land must stay in the hands of Brazilians," said the farm development minister, Guilherme Cassel.

Argentina with more than 7% of national territory owned by foreigners is also drawing up its own law. The Benetton brothers have 900,000 hectares of Patagonia, some on disputed Mapuche tribal land. "There are many foreigners who don't buy to

produce, but rather to position themselves in places with water, mineral resources and hydrocarbons," said Pablo Orsolini, a sponsor of the legislation.

In Madagascar, a deal with Korea's Daiwoo Logistics, to plant corn on territory half the size of Belgium led to the downfall of the government in



2008. The lease was revoked. "Madagascar's land is neither for sale nor for rent," said the new president. Even Australia's senate has called for an audit of foreign-owned land and water projects. According to the World Bank the allure of global land is compelling, as industrial and

"transition" countries are losing 2.9million hectares of cultivated farmland each year. China is paving over its fertile belt on the Eastern seaboard, and depleting the water basin of the north China plain for crop irrigation.

The World Bank estimates production must increase 70% by 2050 to meet two con-

verging demands: extra mouths and rising use of animal feed from grains, as Asia moves up the affluence ladder to meat-based diets. This will not be easy. The great leap forward in crop yields is fading. The Bank said rises in wheat and soya yields have declined from 2% a year

to zero since the 1970s in the West and yield growth for rice and soya in emerging economies has fallen from 3% to 1%.

"With few breakthrough technologies on the horizon, the scope for yield gains seems lower than in the past. Irrigation has contributed to past growth in crop yields, but water scarcity in many regions is now a major constraint," it said. The Green Revolution is "exhausted".

Untapped hinterlands lie in Africa (Congo and Sudan) and Latin America. These are grabbed by foreigners at the rate of 5.5million hectares a year. There is a theoretical reservoir of 445million hectares of un-forested cropland in the world, on top of the 1.5billion hectares in production.

Developed countries are relatively cushioned in food supplies but poor countries that rely on food imports had a scary moment in 2008, resulting in bread riots in Egypt, Indonesia, and a string of other states in Africa. Wheat prices have doubled since June and ten people died during recent food riots in Mozambique, set off by Russia's grain export ban. The World Bank reports that the

number of people, who go to bed hungry each night, has risen from 830 million to more than 1billion over the past three years.

It warns that farmland grab is a "resource curse" that may enrich the elite, but leaving wreckage behind for ordinary people. Proposals are not properly screened, peasants are forcibly displaced and communal grazing lands are closed off. Some investors manipulate opinion with a media blitz of false promises. Nothing has been produced so far on almost 80% of the land purchased. Benefits are often minimal, "even non-existent". In Africa, the land rush is diverting effort from the core task of helping small farmers raise yields.

This neo-colonial trend of treating land as another commodity for speculative profit is a recipe for strife. Unless national interests prevail, food riots and rebellions are inevitable. States fronting international capital will no doubt use this instability as an excuse for a neo-colonial intervention dressing it up as law and order, or, antiterrorist action ignoring the real causes.

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