



Cyprus: art rebuilding society

a round table to bring creativity into the problems of one of the 'hottest' spots in the Mediterranean area

A project by aMAZElab (Milan) in collaboration with Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto (Biella) and Love Difference.

**Cittadellarte, Saturday 25th February 2006
start 17.00**

As part of the GOING PUBLIC '06 project, a day of study on Cypress: its culture, its human and territorial geography, its social problems, the green line, the wall in Nicosia, co-operation between the communities of the North and South, artistic event, Manifesta 2006.

The case of Cypress is very rich and complex, especially after the changes of April 2003, when the neutral militarised zone was opened up at certain selected point, causing the movement of hundreds of people between the two parts of the island, after thirty years (since 1974) of closure.

Even more so in the case of Nicosia, from the times of the first armed clashes between Greek and Turkish Cypriots in the early 'sixties, up to its current condition as the only European city divided by a separating wall. So, it's not by chance that precisely Cypress has been chosen to host the sixth edition of **Manifesta** (www.manifesta.org), the biennial for young contemporary artists that represents one of the most important initiatives in the field of contemporary art in response to the political and social changes in Europe after the end of the Cold War.

On Saturday the 25th of February at Cittadellarte, at the third annual meeting of the members of Love Difference, a round table will be held to discuss the precise role that creativity could play in the problematic Cypriot scenario.

The meeting is organised by the cultural workshop **aMAZElab** (www.amaze.it), which has been working on the theme of cultural interchange and micro-geographies with **Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto** and **Love Difference** (www.lovedifference.org), Artistic Movement for an InterMediterranean Policy.

The subject will be discussed in depth with contributions from:

- **Michelangelo Pistoletto**, artist and art director of *Cittadellarte*, a foundation working to inspire and produce a responsible change in society through artistic ideas and creative projects.
- **Claudia Zanfi**, art director of aMAZElab, creator of the *Gong Public* social and public art project.
- **Socrates Stratis**, architect and urban designer in Nicosia (Cypress), offering his research experience in to subject of territories in transformation.
- **Sophia Karamani**, Cypriot art critic, part of the *Social Gym* collective, protagonist of creative projects targeted toward responsible transformation of the social sphere.
- **H. Meyric Hughes**, Chairman of *Manifesta*, who will present the Cypriot edition of the contemporary art event to the public at Cittadellarte.

The round table will begin at **17.00**, and is open to the public.

From **22.00** the evening at Cittadellarte will continue with a number of **video films** on the subject of the Mediterranean area. The audiovisual material will be provided by the archives of the Mediatec of the **Festival dei Popoli** (www.festivaldeipopoli.org) - Istituto Italiano del Film di Documentazione Sociale Onlus (Florence).

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