

THE LEVENTIS
MUNICIPAL MUSEUM
OF NICOSIA
**REPORT
2021**



leventismuseum.org.cy



A civic history museum exists not so much to display valuable and beautiful objects as to provide information and illumination on a community's past for its present members and for interested visitors. One could almost describe it as something between a traditional museum and a specialised community centre. Its function is to integrate the community with its past, to preserve its roots.

*Extract from Constantine Leventis's speech
on the occasion of the inauguration of
the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia,
20 April 1989*



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THE LMMN TEAM

Employees of the A. G. Leventis Foundation

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Tzeni Lymperopoulou, *Deputy Director*
Maria Patsalosavvi, *Curator*
Margarita Kounnafi, *Public Relations Officer*
Chrysostomos Sakallis, *Collections Registrar*
Valia Mantsentidou, *Education Officer*

Employees of Nicosia Municipality

Nicos Pamboulos, *Health and Safety Officer*
Lella Lymboura, *Administrator*
Yiannos Kyriakou, *Technician*
Argyris Argyrou, *Technician*

THE LMMN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Constantinos Yiorkadjis, *Mayor of Nicosia*
Fotini Papadopoulou, *Representative of the A. G. Leventis Foundation*
Charalambos Bakirtzis, *Representative of the A. G. Leventis Foundation*
Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel, *Representative of the A. G. Leventis Foundation*
Astero Efstathiou, *Municipal Councillor, Representative of Nicosia Municipality, succeeding the late Theodora Knai*
Christos Iosif, *Municipal Councillor, Representative of Nicosia Municipality*
Leoni Orfanidou, *Municipal Councillor, Representative of Nicosia Municipality*

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LMMN AND THE AGLG COMMITTEE

Eleni Yiorkadji, *Chairman*
Agni Papaefstathiou, *Vice Chairman*
Lefki Michaelidou, *Treasurer*
Karin Georgiadou, *Secretary*
Maria Iacovidou, *Member*
Eva Pantzari, *Member*
Eleni Zapiti, *Member*



2021: A YEAR OF CHALLENGES

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou
Director, The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

2021 was a challenging year, not just for the museum sector, but also for our everyday lives in general.

The team of the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia worked hard to implement the targets and follow the policies we set in 2020. One of our main aims as the museum of the city of Nicosia was to make Nicosians feel proud of the history of our town and to attract as many new visitors as possible. This goal was achieved with the temporary exhibition *Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line*: more than 20,000 people visited the exhibition. For some, it was a trip down memory lane; and for the younger generation, it was a journey into the social and political history of Nicosia from the 1950s onwards.

Another aim we set as the civic museum of Nicosia is to present the history of the city and of the island through exhibitions that highlight tradition and history through artistic creation. The second temporary exhibition of 2021, *Raiment of the Soul*, succeeded in this goal: it offered the visitor the opportunity to become familiar with the traditions of Cyprus and Greece through a different gaze, through contemporary artistic creativity, through the eyes of two artists, Vangelis Kyris and Anatoli Georgiev.

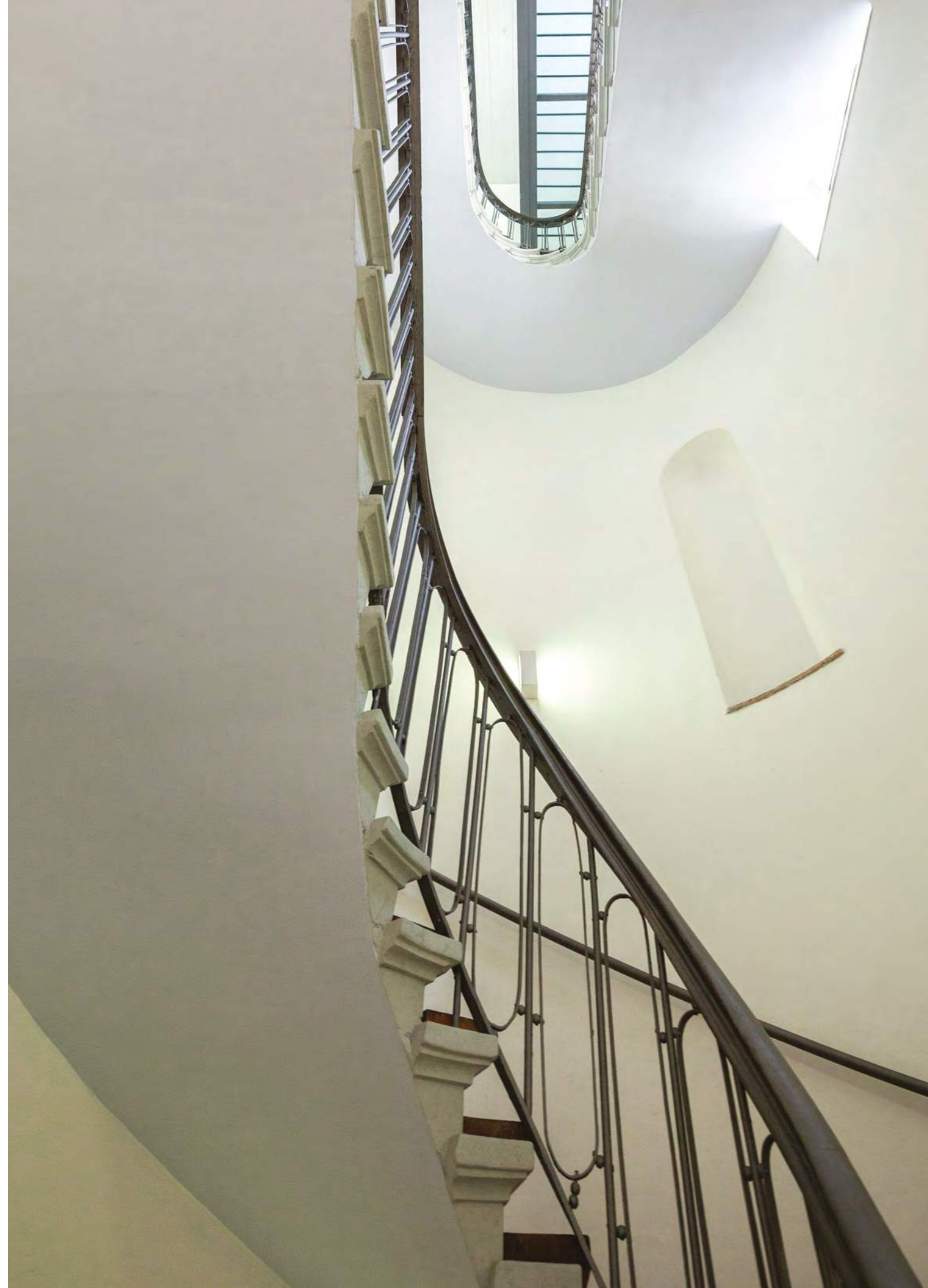
In addition to the temporary exhibitions, the LMMN team created online educational and creative programmes for adults and children; rearranged all the storage spaces of the Museum, a difficult and complex task that gave us the opportunity to discover hidden treasures in our Collections; uploaded information online about our Collections and the history of Cyprus; prepared a new plan for the promotion of the Museum; upgraded various parts of the Museum galleries; renovated the former House of Educational Programmes and the exterior of our building; interacted with our visitors through our social media accounts; collaborated with other organisations and museums from Cyprus and abroad; and participated in online conferences to share our knowledge and experiences with colleagues from museums around the world.

As the museum of the city of Nicosia, our mission is to preserve, document, exhibit and promote the past and present of our town. In 2022 and the years to come we plan to focus on exhibitions and programmes that will reintroduce the Museum to Nicosians and not only. Indeed, we want to engage our visitors in the unfolding stories of Nicosia's vibrant history and cultural heritage. Our aim, therefore, is to help develop the cultural identity of our city and to reinforce its role as a pole of attraction on the island of Cyprus.

Postscript

It is noticeable that this introductory message starts without making specific reference to COVID-19. This was a deliberate decision. No doubt, the spread of the COVID-19 virus and its variants has led to frequent lockdowns and the closure of museums. However, aside from all of the gloomy circumstances that this pandemic may have provoked, museums were forced, as in many other sectors, to rethink and re-evaluate their policies, strategies and purpose.

Allow me to be more specific. The entire team of the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia opted for what is called the 'heliotropic effect' and the 'abundance approach' instead of the deficit (or problem-solving) approach. The former borrow from the natural phenomenon of heliotropism and posit that a positive environment is the preferred condition because it engenders affirmative energy and life-giving resourcefulness. The focus of the latter approach is, by definition, on the negative, in the form of the problems to be solved and the deficits to be filled. That said, I should note that the abundance approach does not ignore the negative; instead, it seeks to embrace and highlight the constructive processes, outcomes and interpretations embedded in adverse circumstances. Although COVID-19 undoubtedly had a profound impact on our plans (scheduled opening events, temporary exhibitions, educational programmes, etc.) in 2021, we embraced this unknown situation differently; perhaps even unconventionally. The following pages of this report outline just that.







Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line
1 June – 31 October 2021

If we could think of a building that best represents the impressive development of modernity in Cyprus and, at the same time, the turbulent recent history of the island, that would undoubtedly be the Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia. The Ledra Palace embodies and exemplifies the cosmopolitan and multicultural character of the city, while its own history simultaneously reflects the social and political developments on the island.

The exhibition *Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line*, organised by the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia and the CYENS Centre of Excellence, explored this 'palace-like' hotel as a place of memory, history, culture and politics and invited the visitor to see the hotel through the eyes of various protagonists: guests, employees, architects, artists, soldiers, United Nations staff and many others.

In the Temporary Exhibitions Hall of the Museum, exhibits, memories and stories of people who lived in or have personal experiences of the Ledra Palace related, on the one hand, the adventurous recent history of the island and, on the other, revealed modernity in Cyprus. The exhibition aimed to 'revive' the history of the Ledra Palace in a multivocal and multidimensional way and, through this story, to induce the visitor to discuss the modern events of Cyprus; and in parallel, it aspired to honour Nicosia. The history of the Ledra Palace unfolds *another* narrative: that of modernism and an intense, cosmopolitan social life. Oral testimonies, in combination with private photographs and objects, took the lead in this process.

It should be noted that the exhibition could not have been realised without the kind loans of photographs, objects and various testimonial material from foundations, organisations and private collectors, as well as from those who worked or lived in the Ledra Palace.

Emerging technologies and innovative applications developed by the CYENS Centre of Excellence played an important role in this exhibition. They brought to life the history of the hotel, which, due to its conversion into UN barracks and its location in the Buffer Zone, is no longer easily accessible. Technology helped older people to remember and younger people to learn what the luxury Ledra Palace Hotel looked like more than 70 years ago - to travel in time to a period starting from the creation of the Ledra Palace and reaching up to today.



CURATORS:
Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel
Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery
Antigone Heraclidou
Research Associate,
CYENS Museum Lab MRG
Theopisti Stylianou-Lambert
CYENS Museum Lab MRG Leader

GENERAL COORDINATOR:
Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou
Director, The Leventis Municipal Museum
of Nicosia

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR:
Maria Patsalosavvi
Curator, The Leventis Municipal Museum
of Nicosia





Raiment of the Soul
30 November 2021 – 3 April 2022

The exhibition *Raiment of the Soul* is the culmination of a glorious project, depicting 100 people over the course of 13 months through the lens of Vangelis Kyris, wearing traditional garments entrusted to the well-known photographer by the National Historical Museum of Greece. Taken out of display cases and wooden chests in order to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 1821, these garments come alive and create an original artistic outcome.

The extremely contemporary approach of Vangelis Kyris was completed by the artist Anatoli Georgiev, who leaned over the canvases for three whole years, respectfully accentuating the details and semiotics of each costume, often using his embroidery to focus on the unlit sides of the 'soul' of each garment.

Sixteen costumes from Greece were displayed with twelve Cypriot costumes donated in 1901 by the Patriotic Association of Cypriots in Athens to the National Historical Museum, following an exhibition held at the Zappeion Megaron. The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia welcomed these costumes as they returned to their homeland after 120 years, this time charged with the historical and emotional thread that wove them and designated them as international cultural heirlooms.



CURATOR:
Erica Vassiliou

COORDINATORS:
Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou
*Director, The Leventis Municipal Museum
of Nicosia*
Tzeni Lympelopoulou
*Deputy Director, The Leventis Municipal Museum
of Nicosia*







One of the main issues we had to face during the pandemic was the pause of all educational activities, which involved school visits and educational programmes specially designed for the permanent Collections and in conjunction with the temporary exhibitions. Our education team was found face to face with the need for a radical change in order to reach our younger and older visitors. A new strategy was put in place, setting clear our new goal: going from physical to digital, from on-site to online.

Educational Programmes On-site and Online

The majority of educational programmes that took place during 2021 were focussed on the temporary exhibition *Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line*.

Exciting stories about the emblematic Ledra Palace Hotel were unveiled through a series of educational films recorded in the Temporary Exhibition Hall. An introductory film was followed by thematic videos, accompanied by four sets of activity sheets that invited our young friends to discover the hotel ballroom, to become a hotel chef, to become hotel guests and how to prepare and send postcards from the Ledra Palace – and all this during their visit to the Museum or on their screen. The activity sheets were available free from the Museum's Shop or to download via the Museum's website.

Ledra Palace: Discover the Ballroom!
(Ages 7-12, dates: 03.07.21 & 18.09.21)

This programme was dedicated to the ballroom of the Ledra Palace, a space that was once the heart of the entertainment scene of the capital. During their visit, the children had the chance to take a closer look at photographs from formal events and objects from weddings and carnival parties and to experience - with the help of virtual reality - the luncheon given by the last British governor of Cyprus on 15 August 1960 in honour of the declaration of Cyprus's independence. Finally, the children used their skills and imagination to make a model of their own version of the ballroom to host a special event with their chosen guests.

Ledra Palace: Become a Chef for a While!
(Ages: 7-12, date: 10.07.21)

During this educational programme the children encountered another aspect of the hotel: the kitchen and dining areas of the Ledra Palace. Great chefs, gourmet menus and decorated tables gave inspiration to the children, who were involved in interactive activities and games throughout their exhibition journey. At the end of the programme, they put on their chef's hat in order to create their own artistic plate with mixed materials, aimed for a special guest of their choice.



Ledra Palace: Incomparable Hospitality!
(Ages: 7-12, dates: 11.09.21 & 16.10.21)

The Ledra Palace was the ideal place for a wonderful visit, both for tourists and Nicosians. The theme of this educational programme was a summer holiday experience with an emphasis on hospitality. The children and their accompanying adults discovered objects related to a vacation at the Ledra Palace through a fun and interactive treasure hunt through the exhibition space. They became tourists for a while, collected their room key from the hotel reception and enjoyed unique moments of relaxation. During their exploration they gained information about the theme by using technology through the exhibition applications. Finally, they became young architects for a while and created their own models for their version of the Ledra Palace's swimming pool area.

Ledra Palace: Every Photograph Tells a Story!
(Ages: 7-12, date: 30.10.21)

The world of the emblematic Ledra Palace Hotel was unveiled mainly through photographs to reveal to the children the building's history, as well as the modern history of Cyprus. Through a treasure hunt, they found the photographs from the exhibition that tell the story of the hotel and of the island. The activities included slow looking and guided questions from the museum educator related to the photographs they discovered; the children imagined the stories behind each photograph. Afterwards, the museum educator revealed the actual stories that took place in the hotel, and the children made connections by discussing the relation of the events depicted in the photographs to the history of Cyprus. Then, they put the photographs into chronological order and finally they created their own picture of how they would imagine the Ledra Palace in the future.



On-site School Tours

Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line

With the approval of the Department of Secondary General Education, school groups of children aged 12-18 visited the exhibition *Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line*. Through these special tours, teenagers had the opportunity to unveil important aspects of the Ledra Palace, to enrich their knowledge through new technologies and to realise that the history of Nicosia continues to be exciting.

Raiment of the Soul

With the approval of the Department of Secondary General Education, school groups of children aged 12-18 visited the exhibition *Raiment of the Soul* and discovered traditional Greek and Cypriot garments through the works of Vangelis Kyris and Anatoli Georgiev.



Online Activities

A big challenge that arose due to COVID-19 restrictions was the effort to keep lively and meaningful contact with the young friends of the Museum. We tried to cover this gap with educational proposals, given the demands that inevitably arose through school shutdowns and the children's long isolation.

Moments from the History of Nicosia for the Museum's Young Friends

'Moments from the History of Nicosia' was a project addressed to children aged 7-14. Short video stories brought to life 'moments' from the long history of Nicosia, as the children were encouraged to follow Ledros, the time machine, who took them on a journey back in time. This project, specially designed for the young friends of the Museum, offered them an alternative approach to the ancient, medieval and modern history of the city as figures from the past appeared in the Museum in flesh and blood!



Best of the Collections... for Kids
#LMMN_Katineo #Best_of_for_Kids

Our young friends were invited to visit the Museum online, with each visit introducing them to a different special Museum object. These exceptional explorations included creative craft workshops, as follows:

Kalikantzaroi (Goblins)

For the first time, a digital educational programme with the collaboration of two museums – the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia and the A. G. Leventis Gallery. The programme was based on the series of lithographs 'The Goblins are Playing' by Hambis Tsaggaris, from the Collections of the Leventis Municipal Museum, and the painting *Kalikantzaroi (Goblins)* by Michael Kashalos, from the Cyprus Collection of the A. G. Leventis Gallery.



A Tapestry Tells Us about Spring Flowers

We welcomed the first month of spring and celebrated it by discovering the flowers on special objects from the Museum's Collections.

Make Your Own Traditional Kite!

On the occasion of Clean Monday, kites, customs, traditions and of course children's artistic creative talent came to life through special discoveries.

Dyeing Easter Eggs in the Traditional Way!

Our digital friends explored the methods people used to dye Easter eggs in the olden days. They discovered materials from nature and secrets from past times that showed them how to colour special, unique and above all traditional eggs.

An Easter Custom with Flour and Water (*Lazarakia*)

Easter customs came to life as children used their imagination to revive *lazarakia*. These little dough figures reminded them of forgotten aspects of tradition, while they sparked their creativity and artistic expression.



A Different... Compass

A unique ancient object from the Museum's Collections enriched children's knowledge and showed them that we were able to create a different compass from the one we all imagine.

A Figure of the Shadow Theatre

The famous figure of Karagiozis from the Museum's Collections unveiled hidden secrets about shadow theatre and encouraged our young friends to become puppeteers by creating their own figure.



Christmas at the Museum

Traditional Christmas Bread Making!

On Christmas Eve Cypriot women used to make a special traditional bread called *gennopitta*. The tradition continues, mainly in the villages of Cyprus. We decided to record a short film presenting the recipe for *gennopitta* to our audience, inducing both kids and adults to revive this special tradition during the Christmas season.

Christmas Cards from the Museum!

Handwritten cards used to be a common Christmas custom some decades ago. Inspired by our Museum's Christmas Card Collection, we prepared this short film in order to invite our audience to make their own cards, to write their Christmas wishes on them and then post them to their favourite people.



Collaboration with the Atsas Training Center: Young Artisans of Ancient Nicosia

On the occasion of the start of the new school year, the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia visited the Atsas Training Center. We encouraged the children of the Solea region to discover the world of ancient Nicosia and its inhabitants through some of the Museum's special objects. During this creative morning our young friends had the opportunity to become 'ancient artisans' by making small ceramic vessels, figurines and pendants.





Lecture

'More than a Hotel: The Ledra Palace through Stories of Tourism and Modernism'
5 October 2021

On the occasion of the temporary exhibition *Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line*, the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia, in collaboration with the CYENS Centre of Excellence, hosted a lecture which unveiled many interesting aspects of the architecture of the emblematic Ledra Palace Hotel.

SPEAKERS:

Dr Savia Palate
Architect

Dr Panayiota Pyla
Architectural historian and theorist



In Conjunction with the Temporary Exhibition *Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line*

On-site: Guided Tours

The exhibition curators gave many guided tours open to the public, as well as private guided tours. These revealed interesting facets of the story of the Ledra Palace and offered the audience an exceptional and memorable experience.

By having a glance at the comments in the visitor's book, one can appreciate the great impact that this exhibition had on the visitors and the emotions it elicited in them.

Online: Curator's Choice

The exhibition curators threw the spotlight on unique objects from the exhibition *Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line*, which they presented in a series of short videos.

CURATOR'S CHOICE

Οι επιμελήτριες της έκθεσης επιλέγουν



The Museum Online

The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia prepared specially designed online proposals for exceptional museum experiences. Our online visitors found out more about events, educational activities and digital guided tours that promised a new view into the fascinating history of Nicosia.

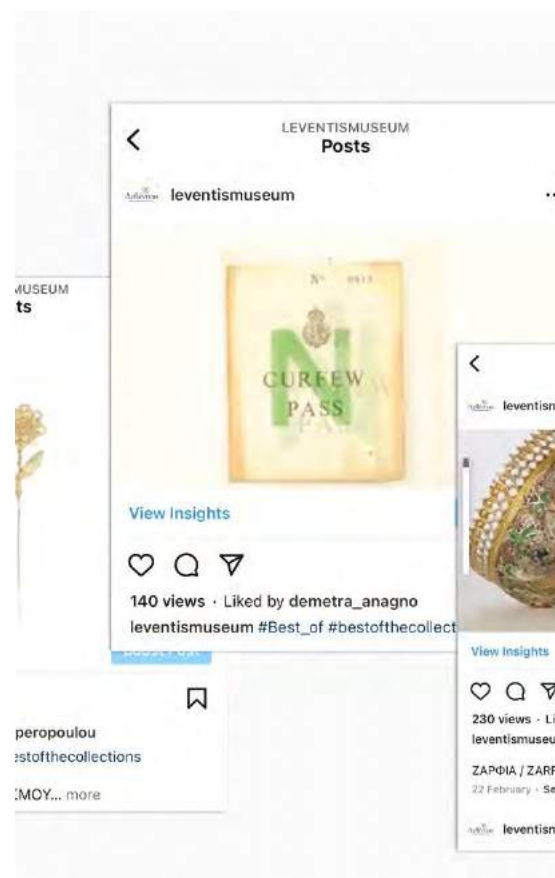
Curator's Choice: Online Guided Tours

The curators of the Museum presented close-up views in digital tours. Special objects from the city – that either on a large or small scale have participated in the historical itinerary of the capital – led visitors to discover their hidden stories.



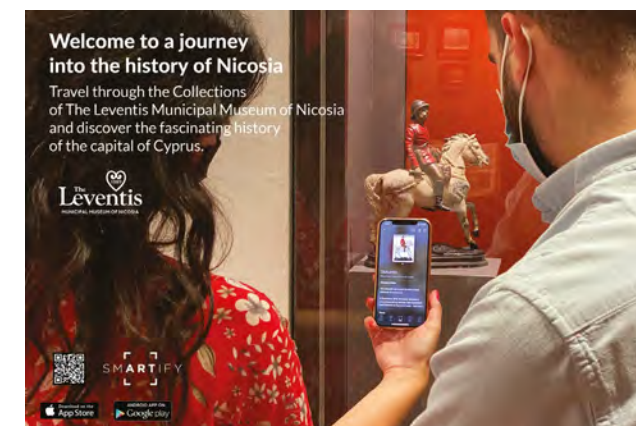
Best of the Collections

We introduced the 'Best of' the Collections as social media posts. Intuitive information and inviting images kept our audience in touch and gave a voice to silent objects in the pandemic era.



The Smartify Digital Platform

One of the main projects that we enhanced as soon as the pandemic started was the digitalisation of the Museum's Collections. It became of vital importance to make our Collections accessible to a broader audience. The Leventis Municipal Museum is part of the Smartify community, the world's most downloaded museum application. To date, 59 of the most important objects from our Collections are available to the online visitor.



Events on the Occasion of the 1600th Anniversary of the Founding of Venice

The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia participated in the celebrations of the 1600th anniversary of the founding of Venice. As the civic history museum of Nicosia, the Leventis Municipal Museum has an extensive selection of objects which present the historical itinerary of the city through the centuries, from antiquity to the present day. An important section of the Museum's Collections and permanent exhibition galleries consists of objects, documents and other material related to the Venetian rule of Cyprus (1489-1570), when Nicosia was the administrative capital of the island. A special section is also dedicated to Caterina Cornaro, the last queen of the medieval Kingdom of Cyprus. Her presence in Cyprus marked an important historical moment, the transition from Frankish rule to the Venetian domination of the island. The period of the Venetian administration was of paramount importance to Cyprus. It shaped the social, economic and cultural life of the island, as well as the urban landscape, and largely determined the European character of Cyprus. On the occasion of this great celebration, the Museum organised five special programmes.



Unveiling a Story

Activities on social and digital media

i. Caterina Cornaro, the Last Queen of Cyprus

A virtual guided tour in the Caterina Cornaro Gallery of the history of Caterina Cornaro and Cyprus through narrations and the objects depicting the fascinating and interesting story of the last queen of Cyprus.

ii. The Venetian Treasure of the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

A virtual guided tour of the silver objects, such as bowls, jewellery and coins, that are part of a treasure that dates back to the period of Venetian rule. The Venetian Treasure is considered one of the most important elements documenting the Venetian history of Nicosia. The story of the discovery of the treasure and its acquisition and repatriation by the A. G. Leventis Foundation was also revealed.

The Map Collection of the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

Activity on social and digital media

The Museum owns a unique corpus of all of the known maps of the city from the 16th century to the 19th and beyond. This digital guided tour presented part of this Collection as displayed in the Map Room of the Venetian Galleries of the Museum.



Venetian Stories and the Siege of Nicosia

Podcasts

A series of ten podcasts narrated the Venetian period of Nicosia, as well as the history of the Venetian fortifications and the siege and fall of the city to the Ottomans on 9 September 1570. The texts were selected from the accounts of travellers, historians and narrators of the period.

'Moments of History' for the Young Friends of the Museum

Activities on social and digital media

Two short stories brought to life 'moments' from the long history of Nicosia. The children were encouraged to follow Ledros, the time machine, who took them on a journey back in time. The two scenes presented below were part of a project specially designed for the young friends of the Museum, offering them an alternative approach to the medieval and Renaissance history of the city.

i. The Assistant of Giulio Savorgnano

Savorgnano was the engineer who designed the Venetian walls of Nicosia. His assistant revealed to the children the secrets of this emblematic monument and encouraged them to become young explorers in the capital.

ii. Caterina Cornaro, the Queen of Cyprus

The queen is preparing to leave Cyprus to return to Venice, where she will hand the crown of Cyprus to the doge. Through a vivid narration, the queen's lady of honour outlined Caterina Cornaro's final days in Nicosia.

Collaboration with the A. G. Leventis Gallery - Venus, Venice and Cyprus

Activity on social and digital media

A virtual presentation based on an essay by Emeritus Professor Peter Humfrey, relating Venus and her birthplace, Cyprus, to the Venetian period of the island.



Conferences

Going Digital: Our Story during the Pandemic

At the Final Conference of the CultVET Project - Nicosia Tourism Board

The Leventis Municipal Museum participated in the final conference of the European CultVET project (Joint Qualification for Vocational Education and Training [VET] Centres in the Field of Cultural Tourism), which was held as a virtual conference via the Zoom platform on 11 June 2021.

During the conference, the outcome of this two-year project was presented. Additionally, speakers from the tourism sector presented the challenges and the new prospects in the cultural tourism field.

Our participation unveiled the role of a modern museum in the field of cultural tourism, in particular in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the Museum had to turn to online visitors and therefore had to implement new digital practises in order to remain active and to maintain a stable base of communication with its public.

Building a Time Machine for the Virtual Exploration of Historic Urban Space: The Case of the Interactive Visualisation of Nicosia at the Leventis Municipal Museum
Online training course: Using digital collections of museums to deliver and enhance the curriculum in VET, organised by the Cyprus Food and Nutrition Museum

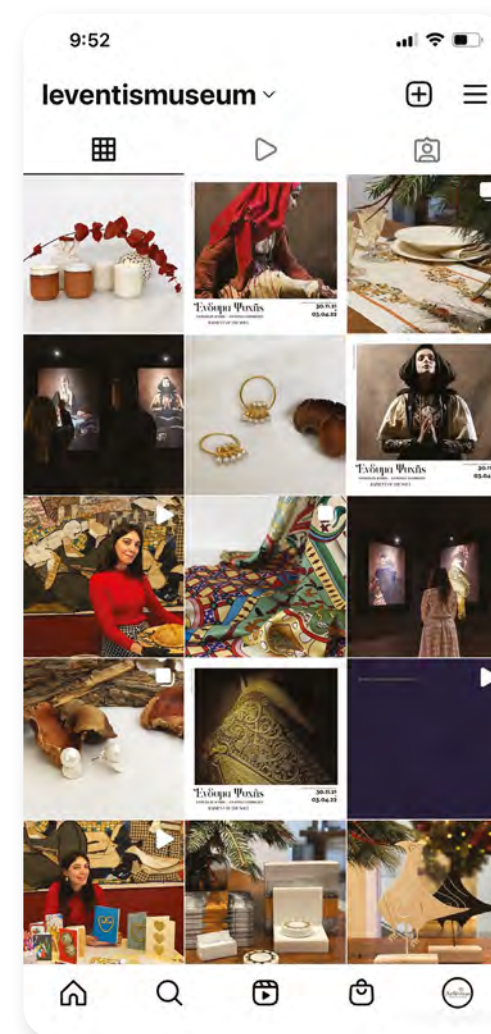
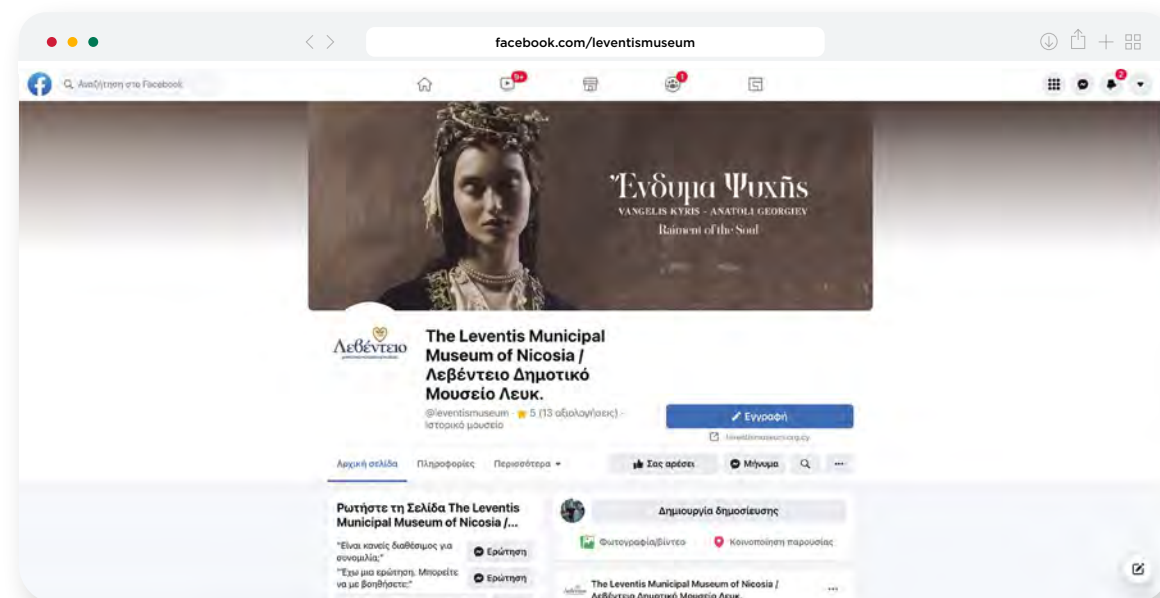
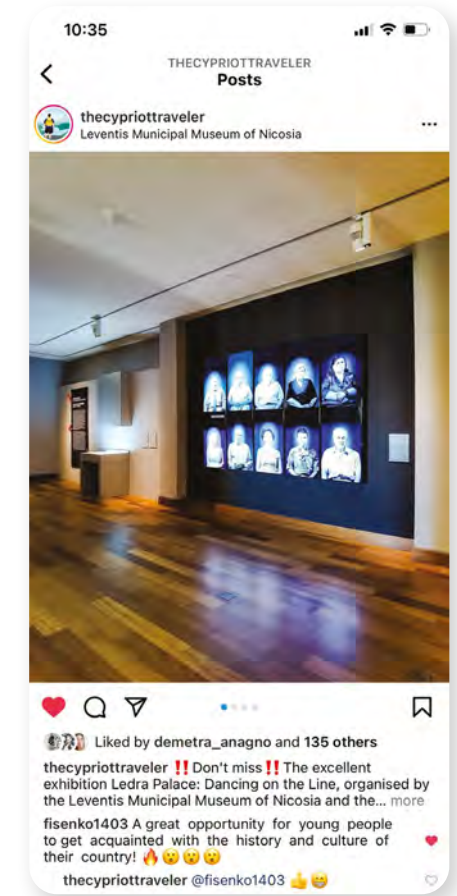
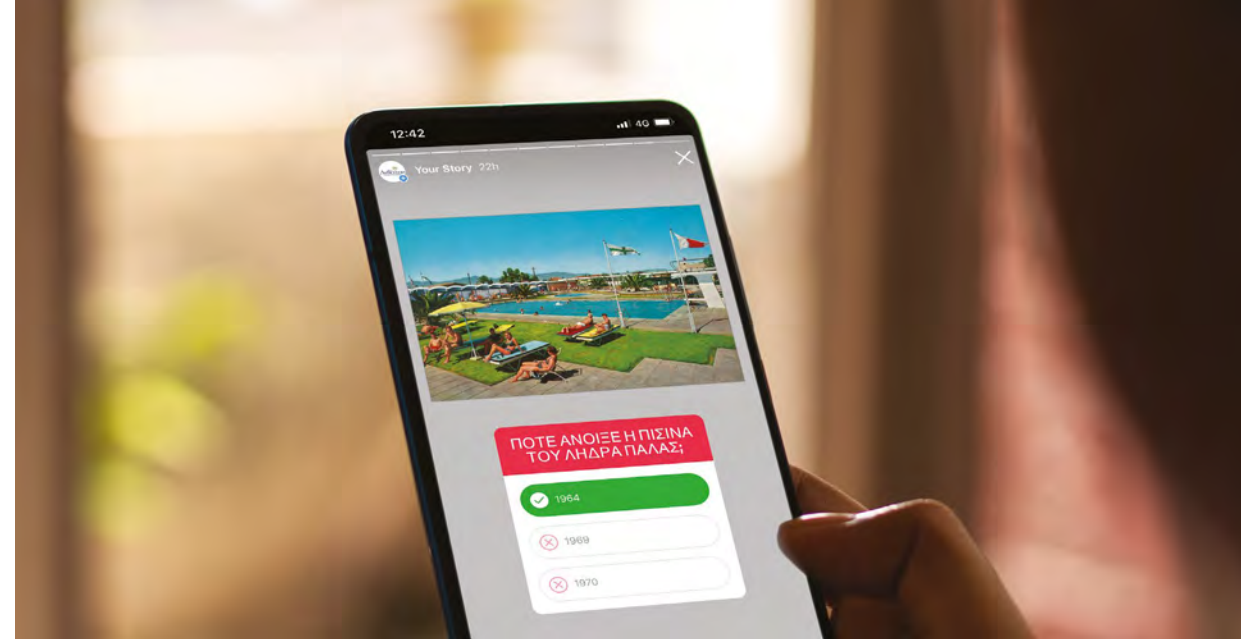
The Cyprus Food and Nutrition Museum hosted a three-day training course as part of the Erasmus+ E-Voked project focussing on the use of museums' digital collections to deliver and enhance the VET curriculum. The training took place on 22-24 June 2021. In collaboration with the Cyprus Institute and the STARC team, the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia participated in the online conference with a presentation regarding the interactive platform that is located in the permanent exhibition space on the first floor of the Museum.



Social Media Revamp

Living in an era in which social media have ‘taken over’ the world, many museums have restructured their policies and the way they use these tools to interact with the public. On that note, in 2021 a new social media policy was implemented throughout the social media platforms of the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia. Various social media projects were launched on the Museum’s Instagram and Facebook pages to create a stronger and more vital presence for the LMMN, aiming to engage with diverse online audiences.

Stunning images, fun GIFs, videos and quizzes were posted throughout the year, promoting the Leventis Municipal Museum’s Collections and its temporary exhibitions, as well as the Shop’s merchandise. The results have proven to be very rewarding, since many Instagram and Facebook influencers seem to have taken an interest in the Museum as a destination, sharing the Museum’s Collections and temporary exhibitions on their own initiative with their followers.





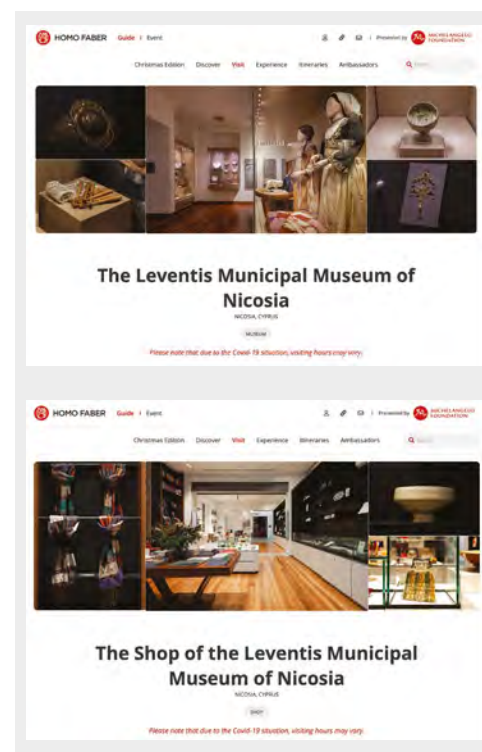
Works on Loan: 34th Bienal de São Paulo

The artworks by Christoforos Savva *Abstract Composition* (1962-1963) and *Yellow Rectangle* (1966-1967) from the Museum's Collections travelled to São Paulo in Brazil to be exhibited at the 34th Bienal de São Paulo.



Homo Faber Platform

The Homo Faber platform offered us the opportunity to share with the European public one of the missions of our Museum for our Collections and for the Shop: to inspire local artisans and designers to create and deliver contemporary products. The visitor to the Homo Faber website can experience cities across Europe, including Nicosia, through artisans and their masterpieces, from past times to nowadays.

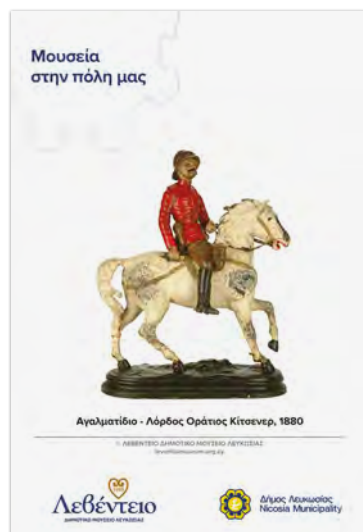


Nicosia Municipality - Bus Stops

The Leventis Municipal Museum participated in a project initiated by the Nicosia Municipality aimed at promoting all of the museums in Nicosia. The Leventis Museum selected five key objects from its Collections to feature on posters to be displayed at bus stops all around the capital.

Nicosia Tourism Board - Info Point

Info Point is a project initiated by the Nicosia Tourism Board and implemented with the collaboration of almost all museums in Nicosia. Info Point is an information sign which promotes landmarks around the city; there is one situated next to the main entrance of the Museum. This project also highlights the importance of museums as cultural institutions in the city of Nicosia.



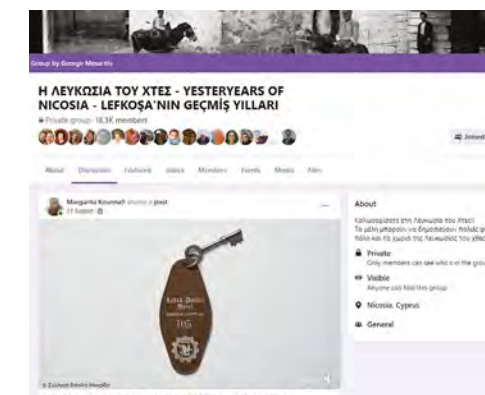
'Echo of Cyprus, 1821-2021'

'Echo of Cyprus, 1821-2021' is a website that was set up in view of the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Greek Revolution and is the result of the research and writing of the History and Art Department of the Christodoulos G. Vassiliades Law Firm. The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia participated by providing information and photographs of 32 objects from its Collections.



'Η Λευκωσία του χτες - Yesteryears of Nicosia'

Welcome to the Yesteryears of Nicosia! The Museum began a close collaboration with 'Η Λευκωσία του χτες - Yesteryears of Nicosia', a very active private group on Facebook. Our team shares archival and other material related to the social life of our city that touches on historical events. The members of the group, mostly Nicosians, are always willing to share their knowledge and memories of old Nicosia. Members post photos of yesterday's Nicosia and the region's villages, dating up to the 1980s. The themes of the photos include buildings, urban and rural landscapes, people, family moments, important happenings, events, advertisements, articles and so on.



Information Centre in Eleftheria Square

On the occasion of the inauguration of Eleftheria Square, the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia, in collaboration with the Nicosia Municipality, created a unique exhibition space on the premises of the square. Visitors can learn about the history of the square and gather information through photographs from the Museum's Photographic Archive. The Information Centre is managed by the Nicosia Tourism Board.







Creativity Centre

During the COVID-19 lockdown, we decided to renovate the old House of Educational Programmes, which was housed in a building with serious structural issues.

As part of the rebranding of the Museum, and with the new education programmes logo 'Μάθε Κάτι Νέο' [Learn something new], the House of Educational Programmes was renamed as the Creativity Centre in order to describe its renewed character and to underline the interactive activities planned for the future. It is a space where our young and older friends have the opportunity to interact and learn through our educational programmes in a more functional and attractive space.

The building works included:

- Maintenance of interior and exterior walls
- Maintenance of the building façade: entrance door / stone elements
- Maintenance of the courtyard area: replacement of paving stones damaged by humidity / glass doors
- Roof insulation
- Maintenance of damaged interior and exterior doors and windows
- Wooden floor repair
- New facilities for kids
- Upgrading of lighting
- Maintenance of the electrical system
- Upgrade of the security system
- Installation of a new fire detection system
- Installation of a new sound system
- Installation of new furniture and equipment for educational activities and conference meetings
- A new work space to be used for object archiving and documentation
- A new conference room

Permanent Exhibitions

Caterina Cornaro Gallery

After the expiration of his long-term loan agreement with the Museum, the collector Michael Zeipekkis decided for personal reasons that he did not wish to proceed with its renewal. Thus, the objects were returned to the collector, and the Museum team proceeded with the refurbishment of the Caterina Cornaro Gallery. Objects from the Museum's Collections were reintroduced to the public, including various engravings that had been kept in the storage rooms due to lack of space.

Venetian Period - Interactive Station

A preliminary preparation for cabinet displays was carried forward at the interactive station hosting a platform presenting the fortification of the walls of Nicosia. The cabinets are designed to present properly the cannonballs and granite catapult balls that are considered to have been used during the great battle of the siege of the city of Nicosia by the Ottomans in 1570.

Building

Our target is to preserve the original fabric of the building and at the same time to develop and improve our building facilities for the benefit of young visitors and adults by creating a high-standard space that offers opportunities for interaction and engagement with the Collections. In collaboration with the architect Karin Georgiades, we are preparing a long-term maintenance plan for the years to come.

In 2021 the works included maintenance of the exterior walls and windows (courtyard, north and east façades), as well as the maintenance of the drainage system and gutters.



Collections

Documentation - Manual Update

The Leventis Digital Archive was upgraded and is now a user-friendly programme, easily accessible from any web browser and supported by any computer (Windows or Apple). These changes help the staff to monitor and update the details for objects from any part of the Museum with the help of a laptop and allow researchers to browse the Collections from a computer situated in the library.

In 2021 an analytical manual was created, which includes all the steps for the electronic documentation of the Collections and our new acquisitions.

Documentation of Photographs

More than 1000 photographs were scanned in high quality and reinserted into our digital archives. All these objects were rewrapped with appropriate materials and marked with new labels.

Donations

916 new objects have been added to the Museum's Collections, with significant contributions from 14 donors. The new donations have been catalogued, partially preserved, packaged and stored in accordance with appropriate practices for the mitigation of environmental and technical damage.

The archive of Titina Loizidou, which numbers 672 unique artefacts, has been catalogued and digitised. This archive sheds light on various aspects of European Culture Month, organised and hosted by the Nicosia Municipality in September-October 1995. In addition, the archive of Agni Michaelides, which preserves exceptional information regarding the city of Nicosia, is in the process of being catalogued and digitised.



Acquisitions

Caterina Cornaro's Chamber, Palazzo Cornaro

Lithograph by Joseph Nash (1808-1878), based on an illustration by William Frederick Lake Price (1810-1896) in the publication *Interiors and Exteriors in Venice*, London: Thomas MacLean, 1843
Collection: A. G. Leventis Foundation
LMMN: B/2021/5483

Costume from Cyprus, 19th century

A work by Vangelis Kyris and Anatoli Georgiev, part of the exhibition *Raiment of the Soul*
Collection: A. G. Leventis Foundation
LMMN: D/2021/5794

Conservation

The conservation plan for the Museum's Collections in 2021 was to prioritise according to permanent and temporary exhibition needs. Various engravings were conserved to be exhibited in the Caterina Cornaro Gallery, as well as objects related to the Ledra Palace Hotel in order to be displayed in the temporary exhibition *Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line*. Special attention was given to the conservation of an old cabinet which is going to be exhibited in the newly refurbished and renovated Creativity Centre.



Storage Rooms

New Storage Room, Second Floor

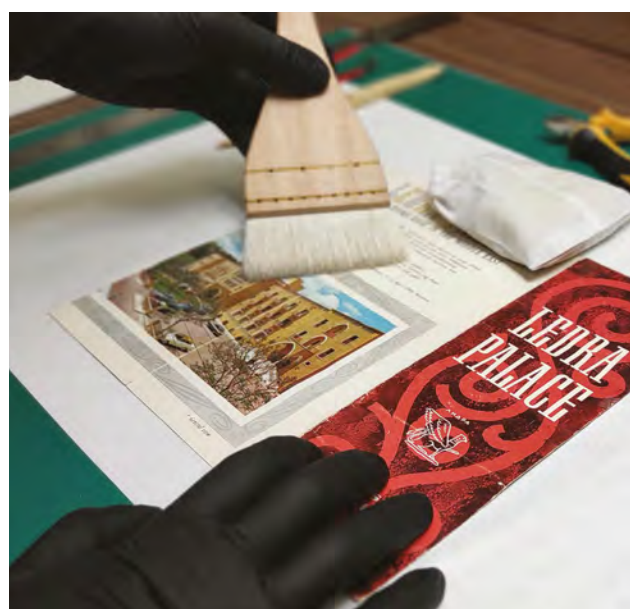
On the second floor of the Museum, a new storage space is now dedicated to the Garments Collection. The new space fulfils required climatic conditions for presentation purposes, while also providing direct, unobstructed access to the contents of the Collection for up to approximately 250 pieces.

Upgrading Storage Room 5

Storage room 5 was reorganised from scratch and now hosts documents, photos, engravings and ceramics. All paper objects are now protected in acid-free boxes, and all ceramics are in protective cases.

Upgrading Storage Room 12

The rearrangement of storage room 12 was done in the best possible way to allow for easy access. Parts of our archive, such as exhibition posters and previous publications, are now properly placed in storage units. The faulty ventilation system was also upgraded in order to prevent dust and humidity.



1949
8 Οκτωβρίου
Το ξενοδοχείο ανοίγει για το καιρό. Διαθέτει 93 δωμάτια (150 κλίνες).
15 Οκτωβρίου
Τα εγκαίνια του ξενοδοχείου τελούνται παρουσία του κυβερνήτη της Κύπρου Sir Andrew Wright.

1946
Η ιδέα για το Λήδρα Πάλας γεννιέται το καλοκαίρι του 1946 στα Ξενοδοχεία Forest Park στις Πλάτες από τους Γερμανούς Δουριανίδη, ιδιοκτήτη του Forest Park, Γεώργιο Παύλη, αγίδαμετρο Λευκωσίας, και Δημήτριο Ζερμινή, Έλληνα επιχειρηματία της Αγγλίας. Αρχιτέκτονας του ξενοδοχείου είναι ο Γερμανοσέρβος Benjamin Günsberg.

1954
3 Ιουλίου
Πρώτος χορός των Κυπρίων της Αφρικής.
18 Δεκεμβρίου
Επίσκεψη της διάσημης Ελληνίδας ηθοποιού Έλλης Λαμπέτη.

1953
6 Νοεμβρίου
Επίσκεψη του νομπελίστα ποιητή Γιώργου Σεφέρη.

1952
Ιανουάριος
Επίσκεψη του Έλληνα συγγραφέα Σπυρίδη Μυριβίλη στην Κύπρο και διαμονή του στο Ξενοδοχείο.
Δεκέμβριος
Χριστουγεννιάτικος χορός των κυβερνητικών υπαλλήλων.

1950
Νέος διευθυντής, ο Κωνσταντίνος Α. Φακίδης.

1956
Καλοκαίρι
Η παγκοσμίως διάσημη Ελληνίδα τραγουδίστρια Νάνα Μούσουρη με την αρχίστρα της ψυχαγωγεί τους επισκέπτες στο ξενοδοχείο για όλο το καλοκαίρι.

1955
12 Ιουλίου
Συνάντηση μεταξύ του Άγγλου υπουργού Αποικιών Alan Lennox-Boyd και του κυβερνήτη της Κύπρου Sir Robert Percival Armitage, καθώς και μεταξύ του αρχιεπισκόπου Μακαρίου Γ'.

4 και 7 Οκτωβρίου
Συνομιλίες του κυβερνήτη της Κύπρου John Harding και του Μακαρίου Γ'.

26 Νοεμβρίου
Κατά τη διάρκεια του ετήσιου χορού της Caledonian Society στην αίθουσα χορού, παρουσιάζει 270 Σκωτσέζων, εξαιρετικά κερδοφόρα στο τραπέζι δίπλα από εκείνο που καθόταν ο κυβερνήτης John Harding - αν ήταν εκεί. Τέσσερεις άνθρωποι τραυματίζονται ελαφρά.

1959
Φεβρουάριος
Οι υπάλληλοι του Λήδρα Πάλας απεργούν. Η απεργία διαρκεί μία εβδομάδα και το ξενοδοχείο αναστέλλει τη λειτουργία του το συγκεκριμένο διάστημα.
13 Απριλίου-Μάιος
Συναντήσεις της Συνταγματικής Επιτροπής για την κατάρτιση Συντάγματος για τη νεοσύστατη Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία.

1958
Ιανουάριος
Μέλη της Ευρωπαϊκής Υποεπιτροπής για τα Ανθρώπινα Δικαιώματα επισκέπτονται τη Λευκωσία για διεξαγωγή ανακρίσεων ύστερα από παράπονα Ελληνοκυπρίων για συλλογικές τιμωρίες. Εξετάζουν σε ποιο σημείο η επιβλαβής κατάσταση εκτάκτου ανάγκης βρίσκεται σε αντίθεση με τη σύμβαση της Υποεπιτροπής.

1958
15 Αυγούστου
Ο Βρετανός κυβερνήτης Hugh Foot παραχωρεί γέφυρα λόγω της εγκαθίδρυσης της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας.
1η Δεκεμβρίου
Διπλωμάτη του Κυπριακού Εμπορίου και Βιομηχανικού Επιμελητηρίου μετά τη συγχώνευση τριών φορέων (Κυπριακό Εμπορικό Επιμελητήριο, Εμποροβιομηχανικό Ομοσπονδία Κύπρου και Σύνδεσμος Βιομηχάνων Κύπρου).

1961
Επίσκεψη του διάσημου Έλληνα ηθοποιού Δημήτρη Παπαμιχαήλ.
21 Σεπτεμβρίου
Ο διευθυντής Παύλος Σαυφούπουλος απαγορεύει το προσωπικό του ξενοδοχείου. Νέος διευθυντής ορίζεται ο Clement Arena από το Μονακό.
10 Οκτωβρίου 1961
Η Πρωσία της Δημοκρατίας της Κίνας διοργανώνει δεξίωση για την επέτειο της εγκαθίδρυσης της Δημοκρατίας της Κίνας.
31 Δεκεμβρίου
Στα ξεχωριστά πάρτι διοργανώνεται για τα παιδιά των υπαλλήλων του ξενοδοχείου με επίσημη καλεσμένη τη διάσημη Ελληνίδα ηθοποιό Άλση Βουγιουκλάκη.

1962
14 Φεβρουαρίου
Επίσκεψη του Γιώργου Σεφέρη.
Καλοκαίρι
Ο διάσημος Έλληνας τραγουδιστής Γιάννης Μαρτίνος ψυχαγωγεί τους θεατές του ξενοδοχείου κατά το καλοκαίρι.
31 Αυγούστου
Επίσκεψη του ηθοποιού υψηλόβαθμου Υπουργείου.
8 Οκτωβρίου
Επίσκεψη του αντιπροέδρου.

1963
Καλοκαίρι
Ο διάσημος Έλληνας τραγουδιστής Γιάννης Μαρτίνος ψυχαγωγεί τους θεατές του ξενοδοχείου κατά το καλοκαίρι.
10 Σεπτεμβρίου
Συνέδριο Αφροασιατών (30 χώρες).
Νοέμβριος
Η πριγκίπισσα Μαίρη Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου επισκέπτεται το ξενοδοχείο.

1970
25-28 Μαρτίου
5ο Διεθνές Συνέδριο της Ιατρικής Ένωσης Βαλκανίων.
1η Ιουνίου
Αφοσίωση '70: Επίδειξη μόδας τεσσάρων Ελλήνων σχεδιαστών υψηλής ραπτικής στο γκαλά τραγουδιών οι οδοιπόροι Μπαράζερ.
9 Ιουνίου
Διεθνές Συνέδριο της Διεθνούς Ένωσης Αερομεταφορών (International Air Transport Association, IATA).
Ιούνιος
Ο αρχιεπίσκοπος Μακάριος Γ' είναι επίτιμος καλεσμένος στους χορτασιμούς για τα γενέθλια της βασίλισσας Ελισάβετ Β' στους κήπους του ξενοδοχείου.

1971
30 Απριλίου-9 Μαΐου
Εμπορική Έκθεση του Ισραήλ.
2 Ιουνίου
Καπέλι πάρτι από τον Italo πρόση Alessandro Carpece Minutolo δι-Bugnano και τη σύζυγό του για την Εθνική Ημέρα Ιταλίας.
2-9 Ιουνίου
Δεύτερη συνεδρία της Επιτροπής Ζωικής Παραγωγής και Υγείας στην Έγγυς Ανατολή.
Ιούνιος
Με την εκπαρτία της λειτουργίας του επιτατορίου Jasmine Terrace διοργανώνεται επίσημο δείπνο με το διεθνώς γνωστό γκρουπ Luis Alberto del Paraná και Los Paraguayos.

1972
27 Μαρτίου
Διεθνές αρχιτεκτονικό συμπόσιο για τους Μικηναίους στην Ανατολική Μεσόγειο.
Μάιος
Επίσκεψη με 80 δωμάτια ανακοινώθηκε από την Trecco Constructions Ltd με κόστος £200.000.
2 Ιουνίου
Ο διεθνώς γνωστός τραγουδιστής Georges Moustaki ψυχαγωγεί τους προσκεκλημένους και τους μετόχους του ξενοδοχείου, σε επίσημο δείπνο στη Europe Suite.
7 Ιουνίου
Επίσκεψη του γενικού γραμματέα του ΟΗΕ Kurt Waldheim στην Κύπρο.
Νοέμβριος
Επαναλειτουργία της αίθουσας χορού μετά από ανακαίνιση της από τους αρχιτέκτονες J+A Philippon.

1973
3-4 Φεβρουαρίου
Διοργανώνεται από τον Σύνδεσμο Κυπριακού Αυτοκινήτου το τρίτο Χειμερινό Ράλι στο Ξενοδοχείο, με τον δήμαρχο Λέλλο Δημητριάδη να δίνει το έναυσμα.
Μάρτιος 1973
Οι διάσημοι Έλληνες τραγουδιστές Μανώλης Μητιάδης και Δημήτρης Γαλάνης επισκέπτονται το Ξενοδοχείο.
19 Απριλίου
Η Αντιγόνη Σεβέρη, σύζυγος του υπουργού Υγείας, εγκαινιάζει έκθεση παιλαίστα αντικειμένων του γνωστού εμπόρου αντικμ Αριστείδη Κουδουνάρη.

1974
Μάρτιος
Στη γενική συνέλευση της εταιρείας Cyprus Hotels Ltd αποφασίζεται η επέκταση της αίθουσας χορού, ώστε να μπορεί να φιλοξενεί μεγάλες εκδηλώσεις και συνέδρια, καθώς και η προσθήκη 40 δωματίων στη νέα πτέρυγα, με αρχιτέκτονες τους J+A Philippon.
20-21 Ιουλίου
Το πρωί της 20ής Ιουλίου Ελληνοκύπριοι στρατιώτες και έφεδροι παίρνουν εντομή να καταλάβουν το ξενοδοχείο και να επανδρώσουν τα φυλάκια της περιοχής. Ακολουθεί μια από τις πιο ισχυρές ανταλλαγές πυρών στην Κύπρο.

Τρεις Ελληνοκύπριοι στρατιώτες, ο Τάσος Χριστοδούλου, ο Λάκης Ελισσαίος και Λούης Λοΐζου, έλασαν τη ζωή τους. Περίπου 380 πολίτες, κυρίως Έθνη, παγιδεύθηκαν στο Ξενοδοχείο. Της το βράδυ της 20ής Ιουλίου το Ξενοδοχείο τίθεται υπό τον έλεγχο των Ηνωμένων Εθνών, εκδηλώσεις και στρατιώτες φρονούνται να τα εγκαταλείψουν. Την επόμενη μέρα αποσύρονται και τελικά το Ξενοδοχείο κηρύσσεται περιοχή προστατευόμενη από τα Ηνωμένα Έθνη. Στις 21 Ιουλίου όλοι οι παγιδευμένοι πολίτες φυγαδεύονται με τη συνοδεία των Ηνωμένων Εθνών. Οι Ελληνοκύπριοι στρατιώτες παραμένουν στη γύρω περιοχή έως και το τέλος της δεκαετίας εικοστής.

1975
1η Απριλίου
Ο διοικητής Ιατρικής αξιωματικός που δίνει τέλος των Ηνωμένων Εθνών, πυροβολεί κεφάλι καθώς σπινθηροποιεί τον χώρο. Αυτός ήταν ο δολοφονητής που σκοτώθηκε από τον Ισραήλ.

6 Σεπτεμβρίου
Πρώτη φορά μετά την τριτοετή εισβολή, ο Γλαύκος Κληρίδης και ο Rauf Denktaş συμφώνησαν να συναντηθούν για να συζητήσουν κυρίως ανθρωπιστικά θέματα. Οι συνομιλίες συνεχίζονται και τα επόμενα χρόνια (για παράδειγμα, στις 12 Μαρτίου 1976).
16 Σεπτεμβρίου
Αρχίζει ανταλλαγή αιχμαλώτων μεταξύ Ελληνοκυπρίων και Τουρκοκυπρίων στον χώρο στάθμευσης του Ξενοδοχείου.

1977
2 Δεκεμβρίου
Συναντήσεις με τον τότε πρόεδρο των δημοσίων Δομών Δημητριάδη Mustafa Akinci για τη δημιουργία ενιαίου αποχετευτικού συστήματος στη Λευκωσία. Έκθεση η πλειοψηφία των δημοσίων, επίσημα γίνεται στο Ξενοδοχείο.

Ledra Palace: Dancing on the Line

This successful publication was produced by the A. G. Leventis Foundation and the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia to accompany the temporary exhibition of the same name in 2021 (published in Greek and English).

The book includes six essays on the Ledra Palace Hotel, as well as greetings and short texts by an impressive list of people who contributed their personal recollections and other relevant material.

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Theopisti Stylianou-Lambert
CYENS Museum Lab MRG Leader

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel
Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Antigone Heraclidou
Research Associate, CYENS Museum Lab MRG

Raiment of the Soul

The catalogue of the exhibition *Raiment of the Soul* includes all of the artworks of Vangelis Kyris and Anatoli Georgiev presented in the Temporary Exhibition Hall of the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia (published in Greek and English).

EDITOR:

Vangelis Kyris
Photographer



Forthcoming Publications

Children's Books

Related to their educational programmes for children and as one of the main pillars of their activities in this area, the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia and the A. G. Leventis Gallery are producing two publications related to the Collections of each museum. The aim is to help children aged 6-12 to become acquainted in an interactive and creative way with the history of Nicosia through the LMMN Collections and with European art through the AGLG Collections.

Based on the plethora of educational programmes developed over the years by the educators of the two museums, we have prepared two small, easy-to-use books. The first, *Time Travels: When Lord Horatio, Guy, Hadjigeorgakis and Caterina Met Ledra and Ledros!*, narrates a fun-filled tour of the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia. The second, *The Journey of the Crazy Winged Friends and Their Acquaintance with Leo and Leoni*, introduces the A. G. Leventis Gallery's Collections.

AUTHOR:

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel
Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

EDITORS:

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel
Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou
Director, The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia







The newly renovated Shop of the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia, only a year into its operation, seems to have gained the interest and the trust of the Museum's visitors, as well as its online visitors. The new look of the Shop, along with its modern and upgraded products inspired by objects in the Museum's Collections or by the city of Nicosia itself, have proven to be key factors in its success and the increase in sales.

As of January 2021 the Shop circulates its own monthly newsletter, while it also has an active presence on the Museum's social media platforms through posts featuring beautiful images of its merchandise. Additionally, the Shop did not stop operating during the various lockdowns occurring throughout 2021, since it offered an 'Email & Shop' service to its clients; and a selection of the Shop's publications and products were uploaded and are now available to purchase via the AGLG e-shop of the A. G. Leventis Gallery.





FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS
AND PROJECTS



Based on the LMMN Temporary Exhibition Policy, two temporary exhibitions will be held per year: the main exhibition, which will usually open in late October - early November with a duration of three to four months; and a smaller exhibition, the theme of which will be drawn from the rich Photographic Archive of the Museum and will be inaugurated in May, with a duration of five months (May-September). The aim of both exhibitions is to promote the history of Nicosia through topics of interest to the general public.

Ioannis Kissonerghis – Views of Nicosia

The art of Ioannis Kissonerghis is closely related to the development of landscape painting and its establishment as a subject in Cypriot art. Although the artist is well-known for his landscapes depicting monuments, cities and places on the island, this exhibition will focus only on views and depictions of the city of Nicosia. A selection of landscapes presenting Nicosia will enable the visitor to appreciate the artist's talent, but also to discover the city as it was in the first half of the 20th century. The exhibition will be enriched with photographs from the MATI Photographic Archive of the Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia.

CURATORS:

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel
Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Maria Patsalosavvi
Curator, The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

EXHIBITION COORDINATOR:

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou
Director, The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia

The Football Clubs of Nicosia

On the occasion of the FIFA 2022 World Cup in Qatar, this exhibition will encompass the history of all of the football clubs of Nicosia from their establishment to the present day.



British Gallery – Renovation Project

The Museum's British Gallery was last renovated in 2000 and was not included in the major renovation project of 2010. In 2021 we proceeded with the preparation of a proposal (design and tenders) for its renovation, and the target is to have it ready by the end of 2022 / beginning of 2023.

Maro Theodosiadou Estate

A committee was formed to suggest ideas regarding the future use of the house, based on the terms of the donation. A preliminary study was done in order to determine the structural needs of the building and the possibilities for its use as a public space.





FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia and the A. G. Leventis Gallery Friends Association

The Association was originally formed in 1987 to support the establishment of the Municipal Museum of Nicosia. Following a decision adopted in 2018, the necessary amendments have been made in order to include the A. G. Leventis Gallery.




The
Leventis
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