

EVI PALA

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Lives and works in Larnaca, Cyprus

Evi Pala (b.1992) completed her studies in History and Philosophy of Art in 2013, at the University of Kent. She continued her studies and completed a second degree in Fine Arts at the University of the West of England, Alexander College, in 2016, where she received the Graduate of the Year award for outstanding performance. In 2015, she organized and managed 'Girl Rising Charity Art exhibition' at Apothikes art space in Larnaca.

Ancient Cypriot art in combination with the recent political corruption taking place is the platform which Evi Pala's work is based on. It consists of objects assumedly from the island's past. The pseudo-historical series does not deviate aesthetically from the familiar ancient artifacts already found, and could easily fit in a museum gallery. Her work "slips into" Cypriot history as if it belongs there. By taking something that already exists and constructing it to fit a different context, she mirrors a collective social structure in Cyprus that attempts to create "legacy" for itself. The work contributes to the active development of a "legacy" but ultimately questions what makes it and gives it value. The attempt to use the grandeur of the past and its history to build the current image of the island is simply ludicrous, after experiencing events of the recent years. Laying open an artifact and presenting it as a historical "truth-teller", simultaneously is an attempt to explore

its past identity in relation to the present. With a specific focus on her hometown Pafos, having recently been defamed with multiple political scandals, is used as an example of corrupted political behaviour on the island. Evi Pala constructs narratives through traditional means, by recording obscurities of recent political history and current events, mockingly "historicizing" them. Certain occurrences and/or people significant to the image, "legacy" and identity of her hometown, ultimately formulate an overall image of contemporary Cyprus. Her art expresses an overall criticism of the absurdities of these recent events, revealing how little they have in common with the pinnacles of the past. By folding the historical and cultural image of the island on itself, and recording it at the same time, the work explores the "in-between" phenomenon of the island stuck amongst the past and present.

The Mayor, Pafos gum, 16x19cm, 2016



