

Press Release 2009/Mary Louise Coulouris

“KEFI KAI LOULLOUDIA” an exhibition of paintings by Mary Louise Coulouris will be at the Melina Mercouri Hall, HYDRA, May22- June 1 , 2009.

**VERNISSAGE Saturday 23 May 7.30pm
All welcome!**

Mary Louise is an unusual artist in many aspects –a maverick . While having exhibited in many commercial galleries, and with work owned by museums, she still values her independence greatly, her freedom to pursue a new direction, and continue to do this. Living all year round in Hydra has allowed her to get to know local people on a personal basis and come closer to understanding the Greek way of life.

The title of her new show “*Kefi kai Louloudia*”(high spirits and flowers) may seem strangely optimistic in the present atmosphere of economic gloom, but being an optimist herself and being partly Greek ,she feels this spirit manifesting itself here.

For example the love of dance and music has been the inspiration for a part of her paintings in works such as “Zeibekika”. At a previous exhibition a visitor, who worked with psychiatric patients was impressed with her ability to”get inside” the mind of the person dancing the Zeibekika.

In “Gaia” a circular painting, she gives us a modern Gaia who is dealing with the ecological problems of the contemporary world with her mobile phone. The ecological problems of the contemporary world are of concern to her and that is why she has spent a great deal of time drawing and painting the diversity of the wild flowers of Hydra. In the Ecovase series she uses the shape of the vase wrapped around various flora and fauna of Hydra, to express the need to protect them.

But above all it is from the ordinary people of Hydra that she finds inspiration, whether it is the fishermen selling directly off their boats, the waiters carrying their trays in a special way that she would not like to try herself, or the donkeys and so on.

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