

Mustafa Hulusi

Mustafa Hulusi to represent Republic of Cyprus



A Turkish Cypriot to represent the Republic of Cyprus

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London-based Turkish Cypriot artist Mustafa Hulusi is to represent the Republic of Cyprus at the 52nd Venice Biennial of Contemporary Art, according to the Cypriot Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture. Joining compatriot Grek Cypriot artist Haris Epaminonda, Mustafa will exhibit paintings of fruit that are indigenous to Cyprus; these will include citrus, grapes, pomegranate, and figs. The Venice Biennale (Italian: Biennale di Venezia) is prestigious contemporary art exhibition, that will be held from 7th to 9th June, 2007.

Mustafa was selected by Denise Robinson, the Curator for Cyprus responsible for selecting the artists among a total of 65 participation proposals. During her last visit to Cyprus in January, the curator reviewed the submitted material and made studio visits to Cypriot artists locally and abroad. The proposal for the representation of Cyprus was finalised earlier this month.

Asked how he feels to be representing the Republic of Cyprus, Mustafa simply said: "Well, I'm of Cypriot origin." Highlighting his reasons, Mustafa pointed out that the exhibition is art and not political, "it tries to circumvent politics," he said. Asked why he chose fruit as the topic of his art work, Mustafa continued: "It's about finding something that Cypriots can connect with, these fruits are the produce of the land, and can have different meanings." Excited about participating in such a prestigious exhibition, Mustafa added that "it the biggest platform an artist could be on, one of the biggest events in art and it is very special to be part of it."

Mustafa Hulusi to represent Republic of Cyprus, Toplum Postasi (www.toplumpostasi.net), June 15th 2007