

## **PRESS RELEASE «MAKARIOS AND THE FINE ARTS»**

The exhibition “Makarios and the Fine Arts” is organized at the Art Gallery of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation within the framework of events to celebrate the centenary from the birth of Archbishop Makarios III from 6 April to 31 December 2013. The exhibition, that will be inaugurated by His Beatitude the Archbishop of Cyprus and Nova Justiniana, Chrysostomos II, on 13.00’ of Saturday 6 April 2013, is divided into four sections:

a) Photographic exhibition on the life of Archbishop Makarios, which displays his efforts for the freedom and regarding the survival of Cypriot Hellenism and shows the historical path of the most eminent spiritual and political leader of Cyprus, as well as his love for the culture and especially for the Fine Arts.

b) Relics belonging to Makarios, such as manuscript documents, books, etc., from people of his immediate environment, collaborators, friends, admirers and those who continued his work, which are all presented, amongst other exhibits, giving visitors the opportunity to feel his imaginary, but also his physical presence in space. Among his personal belongings stands out his robe, which he wore on the day of the coup d’état in 1974, three burnt manuscripts, a painting and a book riddled with bullets, and a carpet that was set on fire by the coup rebels.

c) Makarios and the Fine Arts through paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs. Makarios was an Art lover and used to visit exhibitions in Cyprus and abroad and was a patron of artistic creativity, buying paintings and sculptures, in support. The artists, who felt his love and support, were inspired from his diverse work and his leading figure. In their portraits he is depicted as a visionary leader for his people, and in their compositions Makarios is transformed in a symbol of unity and struggle. This section includes also works donated by artists to Makarios or by leaders of foreign countries, such as Mao Zedong, and cultural works, for which he showed particular interest, such as a Rhodian amphora from the Kyrenia ship wreck.

d) The Collection of western European oil paintings (16th-19th century), which was purchased by Archbishop Makarios III in the 1960s from the famous collector and lover of antiquity Nicos Dikaios, Consul of Cyprus in Lyon, France. This acquisition shows the love and interest of Makarios for the Arts and Culture, and the need he felt to endow the newly established Republic of Cyprus with cultural infrastructure. His vision was to create an Art Gallery as part of a Cultural Centre that was implemented with the establishment of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation in January 1978, shortly after his death. The part of the Collection, presented in the Exhibition, covers the period from the 16th to the 19th centuries and the major stylistic trend in art (Renaissance, Mannerism, Baroque, Rococo, Neoclassicism and Romanticism). It includes landscapes and portraits, as well as works with themes from the Bible and Mythology. The works in the Collection, mostly oil paintings, were painted by artists of the major Western European Schools, such as the Italian, French, Flemish, German and Spanish Schools.