

INTRODUCTION 'HOME AWAY FROM HOME" by Yev Kravt

The power of art lies in its ability to capture a moment, a memory, a trace of reality, a dream, a feeling, an idea. Each creative expression finds imaginative new forms, coming to life in a variety of ways. With the theme for the Larnaca Biennale 2023, Home Away From Home, artists and makers of all kinds were invited to imagine the theme in their own, authentic ways.

What is it that constitutes a home, beyond just bricks and mortar? Over the years and around the world, we've grappled with the many meanings of this word. For this edition of the Biennale, we've set ourselves the task of unpacking notions of home and belonging – ideas that shape our lives and identities since birth. The meaning of home, and of finding our roots, is a multi-layered concept.

What does it mean to be at home? Among others, the question can be approached from psychological, philosophical, environmental, architectural and technological perspectives. In the Larnaca Biennale, we'll delve further in every domain.

For millions of people across the world, home can also represent a lost memory, or a dream yet to be realised. These are the dislocated, the displaced, the homeless – or perhaps more appropriately, 'the unhoused'.

We tend to forget that our primal home was once in the natural world – embedded firmly within the environment itself. Home, thus, might also represent a landscape, a forest, or any other wild space. But as we go further into a built environment of houses, streets, neighbourhoods and cities, are we becoming further detached from our origins? For many artists, this tendency is concerning – in response, their works give voice to the natural world, or seek to foster a renewed appreciation for the things it provides.

Home is about more than a house; it's about belonging and community, oneness with the landscape, the weight of the past, dreams and personal identity. Whether we call it home or give it another name, it is the essence of our existence – spaces that shape us as much as we shape them, where we discover ourselves in the things we encounter. For me, and for the many others that pass through, Larnaca holds the potential to be such a place – even if only for a while.

For the Larnaca-born Stoic philosopher Zeno, the notion of a global home was a core belief some 2300 years ago. He argued that "what is required of the system of government is to force us to transcend the dispersion into cities, peoples, and nations, separated by laws, rights, so that we can all see each other." Seeing one

another and coming together offers an antidote to division, and a way to feel at home wherever we may be.

So, while seeing the exhibition of the Larnaca Biennale 2023, I encourage you to think beyond the material, and about more than the geographical. Activate your memories, dreams and feelings to imagine what it really means to be at home. Perhaps the answer lies in the resilience of the human spirit and our ability to create new homes and new memories, even in the face of profound challenges. Writing and thinking about homelessness, memory, and displacement – for which the creative process can be a valuable tool – is a call to action to address these issues, aspiring for a more just and equitable world where everyone has a place to call their own.