Aphrodite.Lovestoned

Photos and poetry combine in Paphos exhibition

Art photographer and poet Anna Würth's love of stones took her to the Akamas peninsula where, by near the Baths of Aphrodite cliffs, she took analogue photographs of rocky structures—with powerful results.

The photos, also included in Anna's book 'Aphrodite.Lovestoned', where they are juxtaposed with her love poems, are on show at Chiaki Kamikawa Contemporary Art Gallery until April 6. Anna will also be giving a poetry reading at the gallery at 8pm tomorrow.

'Aphrodite.Lovestoned' will also be on display at the Goethe Institute in Nicosia from April 8-12 and Anna will be reading from her work there at 7pm on April 8.

Speaking to The Cyprus Weekly recently, Anna revealed that she was inspired "by the unique geological formations of the island, by the myth of Aphrodite and by the special light".

Anna continued that she decided to compile 'Aphrodite.Lovestoned' after discovering that the stone portraits she took near the Baths of Aphrodite "do not only show archaic structures but a certain sensuality as well. I saw erotic signals, symbols of power, magical signs. It reminded me of the 'lovestoned' world of Aphrodite and I remembered my poems about all the facets of love. My poetry was to complement the photography, each as an independent work of art".

According to author and columnist Peggy Parnass' review of the book: "If they are hot and wild, that's nice, but it's hardly surprising.

"It is rather more of a surprise that the stones she photographs on Cyprus radiate such a tremendously sensuous aura. All these things together bring up the most beautiful memories. Memories of the start of passion, before it tips over the edge. Altogether, a salute to the beginning of every love affair".

Anna told the paper that selecting the pieces, which were taken and written over a number of years had been difficult "because I love them all."

"My idea was to show ordinary stones on the shoreline, a public place, but to reveal something unexpected. My aim was to make my analogue photographs look unfamiliar, without using computer treatment.

On display at Chiaki Kamikawa Contemporary Art Gallery

Anna Würth

"The selection criteria for my photographic work in 'Aphrodite.Lovestoned' was the degree of abstraction," she elaborated. The message Anna hopes those attending the exhibition and exploring the book will leave with is that she wants "to transform the things that surround us, to reveal the hidden beauty and strength".

"I am very glad that my Aphrodite pictures return to their place of origin. So I have been looking forward to my two exhibitions and readings in Cyprus," Anna said.

"Because I am fond of meeting the people who are interested in my art works, I like the exchange at the opening and, as an author, I find deep pleasure in seeing the audience of my reading listening attentively, letting themselves immerse in the poetry. The response of the visitors is always an enriching experience".

The artist also revealed that her next solo exhibition would be a different project "switching from nature to human beings. It is about faces, undercover, set-up scenes of female power" and will take place in Hamburg.

Anna worked as a sailor after graduating from university and then spent 13 years working as a journalist with dpa, the Deutsche Presse-Agentur (German Press Agency), for 'Merian' cultural magazine and as an editor at 'GeoSaison' before becoming a freelancer.

She has travelled extensively, visiting every continent, sometimes on trips particularly to visit indigenous peoples.

As an author, she has published lyric poems and short stories in over 60 anthologies.

In 2001 she received the Literary Sponsorship Prize of GEDOK, the largest interdisciplinary organisation of female artists in Germany.

Anna regularly gives public readings both in Germany and abroad and is actively involved with eight associations of authors and artists.

In parallel to her writing activities, she has been working as a photographic artist since 2007. She has taken part in 25 exhibitions judged by juries, including the 4th and 5th Triennials of Photography in Hamburg.

Her work has been published in 12 group exhibition catalogues. At solo exhibitions she has shown series of staged photography and photographic dialogues.

From 2012 her work has featured botanical and mineral structures that give the impression of abstract paintings.

Anna's photographic creation focuses on metamorphosis. Her rich pictorial idiom rings the changes on transition and transformation. Her characteristic photographic dialogues set up correspondences between independent pictures, as well as resonating with verses from her lyric production.

Her staged photographs, sometimes positioning herself as the central character, play with surreal modes of reality. Fascinated by the charm of the diffuse, she deliberately includes blurred effects in her complex studies of light and colour.

Chiaki Kamikawa Contemporary Art Gallery is situated at 10, Solonos St., Paphos. Visit www.c-kamikawa.com or call 99311225.