

The talented and emerging international artist, Ariana Cuevas, will be coming to Cyprus to display her vibrant art exhibition; titled *Cruzar el Mar (Crossing The Sea)* at the Forza 9 Gallery in Polis Chrysochous, from October 8 until November 7.

This particular series of artworks focuses on a masterful fusion of colour and composition; combining scenes of nature and people from all corners of the world, set in graphic and surreal landscapes.

Displayed in these energetic works, reminiscent of Gauguin's colour scheme and subjects in parts, is a complementary polychromatic palette of rich blues against heavily saturated oranges and vivid yellows alongside strong tropical greens; absorbing the viewer's attention, to look closer at the intricate detailing and the eclectic subject matter.

The artist uses a wide range of mediums for her work, such as acrylic, watercolour, oil and silk-screen printing, often layering images and photographs of people from past generations into a collage, together with paintings of contemporary multicultural figures. By using this mix of graphic techniques, Cuevas creates a visual idiom, almost like pop-art, with which she emphasises her vision.

The title of the exhibition *Cruzar el Mar (Crossing The Sea)*, refers to the Cuevas's ancestors and their immigrant background, travelling back and forth from South America and Europe. Like a colourful montage; the artist's deep rooted heritage and contrasting surrounding environments, have fuelled the artist's imagination into creating a



unique and distinctive style, reflecting cultural diversity.

Cuevas was born in 1972 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Here, she had her first artistic training in theatre and various other companies. In 1993 she moved to Europe where she first worked as assistant to sculpture Haïm Kern in Paris.

After completing her apprenticeship, she moved to Brussels where she studied at the Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, Belgium and at the Ecole Supérieure des Arts Visuels de La Cambre. She currently lives and works in Belgium and her professional activities are split between her work as a painter and her work in opera, theatre and cinema.

Her paintings have been shown in a

large number of personal and collective exhibitions in Belgium, Germany, France, Chile and her native Argentina. A striking and visually enticing art exhibition, this artist incorporates an exotic look into her art, by mixing cultures and different artistic techniques to great effect. With such a strong use of colour predominant in her artwork, you cannot help but be mesmerised by it.

Cruzar El Mar (Crossing The Sea)
Solo painting exhibition by Argentinean artist, Ariana Cuevas. Opens October 8, until November 7. Forza9 Gallery, Polis tis Chrysochous, Paphos district. Monday-Saturday 10am-3pm and 6pm-9pm. Tel: 99-127428. www.artgallery-forza9.com

By Ledha Socratous

Cultural crossings