



Press release

GAIA-heritage for the MEDNETA project launches “*Weaving the Sea*” Exhibition in Beirut

Beirut, 24-Nov-2015 – GAIA-heritage is launching a two week-long Exhibition titled “*Weaving the Sea*”, at Villa Audi (Ashrafieh), under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Culture, Raymond Araygi, as part of the EU-funded MEDNETA Project, to reinforce creativity and the regeneration of Mediterranean neighbourhoods. Representatives of the six participating Mediterranean cities will also be present.

“What is so unique about this exhibition is that it is the first of its kind to bring together so many reputable designers, artists and craftsmen from cities around the Mediterranean for greater multicultural and multidisciplinary collaboration opportunities,” said Georges Zouain, Principal of GAIA-Heritage. “It also offers the possibility to admire the craftsmanship and artistry of these cities in a single venue.”

“*Weaving the Sea*” Exhibition is set to define Mediterranean design in all its traditions and know-how introducing high-flying fashion designers, ceramists, jewelers, metalworkers, artists, furniture designers, and others.

The participating cities are Athens, Florence, Palermo, Hebron, Tunis, Valencia and Beirut.

“Through this event, we aim to reinforce the market value and visibility of the participating designers and craftsmen, added Zouain. “As well as demonstrate the quality and uniqueness of the design and craft works of South Mediterranean cities.”

Four craftsmen and four designers from each partner city have been matched in order to create collaborations that result in twelve unique objects inspired by the Mediterranean. These include a Ceramist, Nathalie Khayat from Beirut collaborating with a Palestinian Ceramist, Khaled Fakhori; a Product Designer, Tamara Barrage from Beirut collaborating with a Craftsman from Valencia, Vicente Luna Cerveró Valencia, C.B.; a Fashion Designer, Nadya Hazboun from Hebron with a traditional Jebba Maker from Tunis, Taher Chalbi; a Furniture Designer, Mirko Tattarini from Florence with a Ceramist from Palermo, Giulia Agnello and an Interior Designer, Samia Ben Abdallah from Tunis with a Jewelry Designer from Athens, Harris Vassiliadis and many others.

The Exhibition opens on 24th November at 18:00 and ends on 5th December at 12:00 at Villa Audi, St. Nicholas Street, in Ashrafieh.

Notes to the Editor:

The Weaving the Sea Exhibition TEAM

About GAIA-Heritage (sal):

GAIA-heritage (sal) is a Beirut-based Limited Liability Company that provides consultancy services to manage cultural and natural heritage as well as art production. GAIA-heritage's key expertise areas are: culture and heritage economics, culture based urban regeneration, regional development, museums and art centers conception. Founded by Georges S. Zouain in 2002, GAIA-heritage operates in several countries, with a vibrant and international network of consultants and partner organizations that are the pillar to GAIA-heritage's versatility. In all its projects, GAIA-heritage draws its excellence from its unique participative strategy that capitalizes on local know-how going hand-in-hand with the expertise of more international consultants.

About MEDNETA-EU:

MEDNETA (www.medneta.eu) is one of the 95 projects implemented under the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2007/2013 (www.enpicbcmmed.eu). It has a total budget of 1.985.553,89 million Euros and it is financed for an amount of 1.786.998,50 million Euros by the European Union through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union under the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of GAIA-heritage (s.a.l) and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or of the Programme's management structures." (article 7.2.7 of the Grant Contract "Special conditions")

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