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PRESS RELEASE

“The heart of Nicosia International Airport now beats at Larnaka International Airport”

In a festive atmosphere, Larnaka International Airport received during a formal ceremony the historic work of art “Birth and Rebirth” that graced Nicosia International Airport until the illegal Turkish invasion of 1974.

The mosaic, which shows the history of Cyprus from ancient times until independence, was created by Valentinos Charalambous in 1967 on the artist receiving a commission from the then newly established Republic of Cyprus, and was the landmark of Nicosia International Airport. Today, the same artwork becomes the landmark of Larnaka International Airport.

Speaking during the ceremony for the installation and unveiling of the work of art at Larnaka International Airport, the creator of the work, Mr. Valentinos Charalambous, expressed his great joy and emotion that this work of art is returning to its natural place at the main airport of Cyprus. Mr. Charalambous also thanked Hermes Airports and the government agencies as well as all the members of the team who worked so hard to rescue this work and install it at Larnaka International Airport.

In his address, the Chairman of Hermes Airports Board of Directors, Mr. Iacovos Iacovou noted that the rescue and hosting of this artwork at the biggest airport in the country was a top cultural priority for Hermes. For Hermes, he continued, it is a great honor to host at our airport a work of art that symbolizes the progress of our people through the ages. He concluded by saying that Larnaka International Airport is the natural extension and continuation of Nicosia Airport, which at this moment is coming back to life and lives within us again and within this building.

During his speech, the Minister of Communications and Works, Mr. Marios Demetriades, said that he was honored to have the opportunity to address this very special event. Mr Demetriades stressed the importance and the historical and cultural value of the “Birth and Rebirth” work of art and he added that after 40 years a unique piece of Cypriot history has finally been returned to public view.



It is worth noting that the rescue and transfer of the “Birth and Rebirth” artwork to Larnaka International Airport was made possible thanks to the contribution and efforts of the late Minister of Communications and Works, Tasos Mitsopoulos. The “Birth and Rebirth” work of art once again adorns the main airport of Cyprus, giving millions of passengers every year the opportunity to admire it and also learn its history.
