

*The Story of Neophytos the Recluse, by Lefteris Olympios*

Neophytos the Recluse was born in Lefkara in 1134. At eighteen he became a monk, and at twenty-five a hermit in a cave. Subsequently, despite his permanent seclusion he became abbot of the monastic community that grew around him, spiritual leader of the Orthodox Cypriots, and a prolific, wide-ranging and important author. After his death he was recognised as a Saint.

*The Story of Neophytos the Recluse* evokes a contemporary screen of icons as it unfolds a pictorial narrative of Neophytos' life through forty-four paintings arranged in eleven thematic units.

Employing his distinctive artistic language, Lefteris Olympios creates works that reject the linear construct of Time, traverse the specific to reach the universal, and finally encapsulate something of the twin essence of Neophytos' humanity and spirituality.