



Artists & Artisans of Lania

A village where creativity grows like vines

1. A Village That Attracts Artists

Lania has long been known as a **village of beauty** — stone houses, flowered courtyards, mountain light, and quiet lanes. This natural charm has drawn artists for decades. By the late 20th century, painters and craftspeople began settling in the village, restoring old houses and turning them into **studios, workshops, and galleries**.

Today, Lania is one of the **most artistically active villages in Cyprus**, with a reputation for:

- open studios
- courtyard exhibitions
- pottery and ceramics
- painting and mixed media
- sculpture
- textile and lacework
- handmade jewellery
- traditional crafts revived in modern form

The village's artistic identity is now inseparable from its cultural life.

2. The Annual “Lanes & Courtyards” Festival

This event transformed Lania into a **living gallery**.

Every May, residents — both artists and non-artists — open their courtyards, studios, and gardens to visitors. Painters hang canvases on stone walls. Potters display their work under vine-covered pergolas. Photographers exhibit in old stables. Traditional artisans demonstrate weaving, lace-making, and embroidery.

The festival is not commercial in spirit — it is **intimate, communal, and deeply local**, celebrating the creativity of the village itself.

3. Traditional Artisans of Lania

Before modern artists arrived, Lania was already a village of skilled hands. Its artisans shaped daily life:

• The Shoemaker (Cobbler)

His workshop still stands, preserved exactly as he left it — a room of tools, wooden lasts, and leather scraps. He made and repaired shoes for the entire village.

• The Blacksmith

Though his forge no longer survives, older villagers remember the sound of hammer on iron echoing through the lanes.

• **The Weavers and Needleworkers**

Women in Lania were known for:

- **lefkaritika-style embroidery**
- lace edging
- woven blankets
- dowry textiles

These were displayed proudly in House Lanitis and other traditional homes.

• **The Winemakers & Olive-Oil Makers**

Though not “artists” in the modern sense, their craft — the wine press, the olive press, the pitharia — required skill, knowledge, and a sense of rhythm passed down through generations.

These traditional crafts form the **foundation** on which Lania’s modern artistic identity was built.

4. Modern Artists Living and Working in Lania

While individual names shift over time, the village is known for hosting:

- **painters** inspired by the Troodos light
- **ceramicists** using local clay tones
- **sculptors** working in wood, stone, and metal
- **photographers** documenting village life
- **mixed-media artists** blending tradition with contemporary forms
- **jewellery makers** using copper, silver, and natural materials
- **textile artists** reviving old Cypriot patterns

Many of these artists open their studios to visitors year-round, creating a quiet but vibrant artistic community.

5. Why Lania Became an Artistic Village

Three forces shaped this identity:

A. The Landscape

The village sits at the foot of the Troodos, surrounded by vineyards, orchards, and stone terraces. The light is soft, golden, and painterly.

B. The Architecture

Stone houses, wooden balconies, courtyards full of flowers — the village itself feels like a canvas.

C. The Spirit of the Village

Lania is peaceful, slow, and welcoming. Artists find space to work, think, and create. Visitors find beauty in every lane.

6. Lania as a Living Art Village

Today, Lania is not a museum — it is a **living creative community**.

- Art hangs on courtyard walls.
- Sculptures appear in gardens.
- Workshops echo with the sound of tools.
- Visitors wander from studio to studio.
- The village's heritage blends with contemporary creativity.

Lania's artists are not outsiders decorating a village — they are part of its story, continuing the tradition of skilled hands that began with the cobbler, the winemaker, the weaver, and the olive-oil maker.