

FOCUS

Newsletter of the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce



Palazzo De La Salle, Republic Street, Valletta VLT 03 • Tel: 2124 4339 • Fax: 2124 6074 • www.artsmalta.org • info@artsmalta.org

Editorial

Since our last newsletter in May various events and activities have taken place. One of the most important was the decision that the Society was to remain in the premises it has occupied for the last eighty odd years. As a result of this decision the programme of refurbishment and restoration which was long overdue will now start being implemented.

We also had a very successful Art Exhibition during the 49th Malta International Trade Fair which is reported on elsewhere in the newsletter.

Summer tuition classes were also very successful with close to five hundred students attending the various classes. It was heartening to see the Society's premises a hive of activity during summer mornings with the excited buzz of so many young students.

The Saturday morning classes were also quite successful and these are being continued throughout the year.

Various new courses have been introduced and more are in the pipeline. We are open to all suggestions that are forthcoming and all will be seriously considered.

A Questionnaire was distributed to all Summer students and close to 100% of students participated. The response here was also very heartening with students voicing their satisfaction with the courses they attended and all teachers, without exception, proving their popularity with students. Various comments and a few complaints were also made and these are being studied and rectified where possible.

The Society is also working on a number of projects which if brought to fruition in the coming months should prove of benefit to members. Nevertheless, the Council knows that more can be done and suggestions and comments from members are always welcome. Unfortunately we do not get the feedback we would wish from members. These days with electronic mail it is so easy and cheap to communicate. So come on send us your comments.

THE MALTA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR ART EXHIBITION

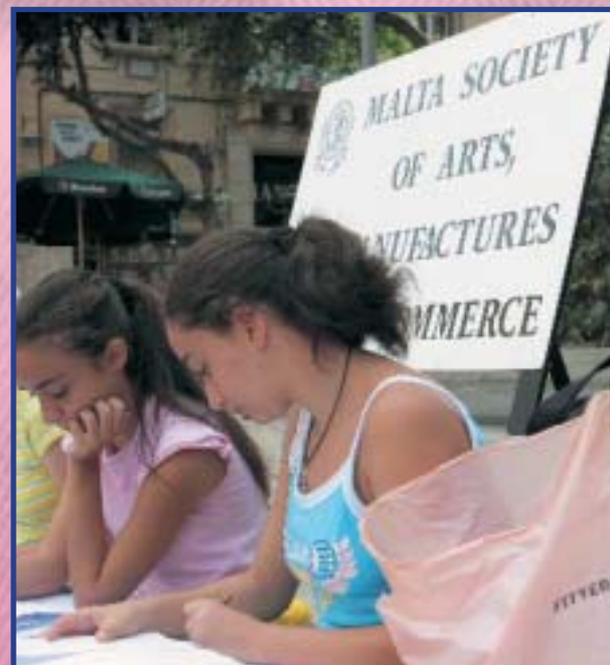


As in previous years, the Society organized an Art Exhibition at the Marchese Scicluna Hall at the Trade Fair Grounds, Naxxar. This Exhibition was officially opened on the 5th July by the President of the Society Mr Paul Ascjak, and remained

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Society's Art Students take to the Streets

About 200 art students of the Society were actively painting opposite the Law Courts building between the 13th and 15th September. The students displayed their work on the railings near the Great Siege Monument and drew many enquires and words of admiration and encouragement from the throngs of people who frequent Republic Street on weekday mornings. We thank the teachers involved in this event, Matthew Cassar (Rabat), Mark Micallef, David Cassar, Romina Delia and Kenneth Cassar.



CLOSE TO 500 STUDENTS ATTEND SUMMER COURSES

The Society's premises were a hive of activity during summer. Hundreds of students attended the various classes during the mornings with many others attending classes on Saturday mornings as well. In all 34 classes were held throughout the week, of which some classes were divided into 2 and even 3 subjects. There were 12 Art classes, 2 guitar classes, 2 violin classes, 2 piano and theory of music classes, 3 Arts and crafts classes, 1 Parchment Craft class, 1 Beading Class, 1 Glass Painting class, 1 Malta Lace and Crochet class, 1 Tailoring class, 1 Fashion Design and 1 Painting on Parchment class. Classes were also held in Embroidery.

Courses

MODEL SHIP BUILDING



Another new course which was quite successful was a Model Ship Building Course which was conducted by Mr. Joe Abela from the Malta Maritime Museum. This course was well received and was run at the maritime Museum. Steps are being taken to run a follow-up course in January. Picture on the left shows the students with Mr. Abela at the Malta Maritime Museum.

CRIB BUILDING



New

The Society introduced a Crib Building Course in July which was quite successful. This Course was run in conjunction with the Ghaqda Hbieb tal-Presepju (Malta) and was conducted by Mr Charles Bellia. Picture on the right shows some of the participants in the course. A substantial number of applications have been received for another course to run from October.

SOCIETY'S WEB PAGE

Calling all Member Artists and Musicians. Have you applied for inclusion in the Society's Web-Page which can also give you a direct link to your own Web-Page if you have one? The cost is only Lm2 per year. Application Forms for 2007 are now available. Artists who are already on the Society's Web-Page need to re-apply. Visit the society's web page at www.artsmalta.org to download Application Form.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FEE

We take this opportunity to remind members who have not yet paid their 2006 Membership Fee to do so at the earliest opportunity. Membership Fees for 2007 are now being collected.

SOCIETY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION

Members renewing their Membership Fee of Lm2 and wish to receive by post a copy of the publication at a reduced price, can do so by sending another Lm1 with the Membership Fee. Paid up members can also apply for this publication at the same price.

Notes for Your Diary

- **23rd November** - Opening of the 5th National Arts Exhibition and Presentation of Awards - Marchese Scicluna Hall, Trade Fair Grounds, Naxxar
- **24 - 26 November / 7 - 13 December** - 5th National Arts Exhibition - Trade Fair Grounds, Naxxar
- **25th November** - LCM Theory Exams
- **29 November** - The Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce Annual Art, Crafts & Music Students Awards - Palazzo De La Salle at 6.00pm
- **30 November / 1-6 December** - The Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce Annual Art & Crafts Students Exhibition - Palazzo De La Salle between 10.00am and 1.00pm and 4.30pm and 7.00pm.

MEDPOT-EU AIDED PROJECT Participants Travel to Sicily



As part of the MedPot project a number of hoteliers, travel agents, ceramists and students from MCAST, forty six in all, travelled to Sciacca in Sicily for workshops in connection with the project.

Soon after their arrival the participants visited a number of ceramic studios in Sciacca, admiring the type of work on show in these studios.

The following day the participants were divided in three workshops, one on the tourist sector, one on the ceramic side and

one for students. The Sicilian counterparts attended these workshops as well.

The tourism workshop was quite fruitful with good interchange between the Maltese and Italian operators. This opened up various prospects and it is now up to both sides to take advantage of the contacts and leads established.

The ceramics workshop was very lively with both the Maltese and the Italian ceramists insisting on their own style and system. However, at the end common ground was found and a policy statement was drawn up and accepted unanimously.

The student workshop was dominated by the Maltese contingent who came out of this with flying colours. The Maltese students earned the enthusiastic and unabashed plaudits of the Italian moderator for the method, application and creativity shown by the Maltese students, ably led by their teacher, George Muscat (who incidentally was the winner of the last edition of the Silver Palette Competition).

A concluding session where all groups attended, was held and the results of the various workshops were read out. It was agreed by all participants that the trip achieved its objective and the Maltese participants returned to Malta quite satisfied with the trip.

The local partners in this EU aided project are the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, the Italo-Maltese Chamber of Commerce and the Secretariat for Small Businesses and the Self-Employed.

The Australian High Commissioner Visits the Society



On the 27th July the Australian High Commissioner for Malta, H.E. Richard Palk, paid a visit to the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce at Palazzo De La Salle in Valletta. He was greeted by the President, Paul Ascjak and several members of the Council.

Mr Palk was shown round the premises, taking the opportunity to see the art, crafts, music, embroidery, ganutel and monastery classes in action and speaking to the teachers and students. Mr Palk was impressed by the work carried out and by the number of students attending classes, which amount to about 500 during summer. The Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce is Malta's oldest cultural society and has been teaching various arts and crafts for over 150 years.



Special Projects Programme

19 students were awarded with a scholarship by the Society. After the publication of examination results for the 2005/06 scholastic year, the Society awarded a scholarship to 19 of its students. This was possible thanks to the funds raised during this year's Annual Fund Raising Dinner which was held at Villa Arrigo last May in aid of the Special Projects Programme.

The awards are to be granted to following students:

Art	Wayne Pisani	Junior Foundation	Teacher - Matthew Cassar
	Mary Ann Teuma	Senior O'Level	Teacher - Matthew Cassar
	Maria V. Cauchi	Advanced Level	Teacher - Matthew Cassar
	Ritienne Agius	Senior O'Level	Teacher - Mark Micallef
	Kieth Felice	Senior - Past Sec	Teacher - Mark Micallef
	Joanne Caruana	Seniors	Teacher - Romina Delia
	Steve Cortis	Juniors	Teacher - Romina Delia
	Shannon Farrugia	Juniors	Teacher - David Cassar
Embroidery	Marita Bonnici	1 st Year	Teacher - Salvina Grech
	M'Louise Bajada	2 nd Year	Teacher - Salvina Grech
Malta Lace	Angela Ghirxi	1 st Year	Teacher - Carmen Ellul
	Agnes Bonnici	2 nd Year	Teacher - Carmen Ellul
	Josephine Cassar	3 rd Year	Teacher - Carmen Ellul
	Anna Pace	1 st Year	Teacher - Fiorentina Giuliano
	Maria Attard	2 nd Year	Teacher - Fiorentina Giuliano
	Pauline Sciberras	3 rd Year	Teacher - Fiorentina Giuliano
Filigree	Candice Fava	1 st Year	Teacher - Paul Degabriele
	Reuben Agius	2 nd Year	Teacher - Paul Degabriele
	Nathan Micallef	3 rd Year	Teacher - Paul Degabriele
Guitar	Kimberly Cachia		Teacher - Andrew Agius
Piano	Jan Danilenko		Teacher - Sarah Agius
Violin	David J. Borg		Teacher - Colin Buhagiar

The President and Council Members would like to take the opportunity to thank all the guests that attended the Fund Raising Dinner, and made it possible to raise funds and finance these scholarships.



49th Malta International Trade Fair Art Exhibition

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open up to the 16th July. Mr Louis P Saliba, who curated the Silver Palette Competition and Exhibition, was also the curator of the Trade Fair Exhibition.

Some 140 works by 64 artists, all members of the Society, were exhibited. The works contributed were in various media. Three dimensional works and ceramics formed a good percentage of the works.

All in all the Exhibition was of quite a good standard and elicited very favourable comments from the public and a good

number of artists sold their work.

All participating artists were presented with a Certificate of Participation by the President of the Society, Mr Paul Ascjak.

The Exhibition was visited by the Prime Minister who had a good word for the many works displayed and for the work of the Society.

Thanks must go to the Malta Trade Fair Corporation for sponsoring and assisting the Society with this annual event.

MCAST STUDENT AWARDED WITH THE MALTA SOCIETY OF ARTS, MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE PRIZE

The MCAST Institute of Art and Design held its annual exhibition at St James Cavalier in July. Jennings Falzon, a final-year National Diploma student on the Design Crafts course, was awarded the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce prize for the best project. The prize, which consisted of a trophy to be retained for one year and a book token, was presented by the Minister of Education, Youth and Employment Dr Louis Galea who also inaugurated the exhibition.

On the right the Minister of Education, Youth and Employment, Dr Louis Galea is seen presenting the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce Prize to student Jennings Falzon of the MCAST Institute of Art and Design.



A GROUP OF SLOVANIAN LACE LOVERS VISIT PALAZZO DE LA SALLE

The Society continued to receive visits by foreign groups, interested in various traditional crafts courses organized by the Society. This time it was the turn of a group of Slovenian Lace Lovers. They paid a visit to the Society's premises at Palazzo De La Salle and met Fiorentina Guiliano, lace teacher and her students.

VEE GEE BEE ART - SILVER PALETTE COMPITION

When reporting on the Silver Palette Competition in the previous edition of Focus the name of the sponsor of the competition, VEE GEE BEE ART, was inadvertently omitted. It is thanks to such sponsors as Vee Gee Bee Art that certain competitions can be held.

