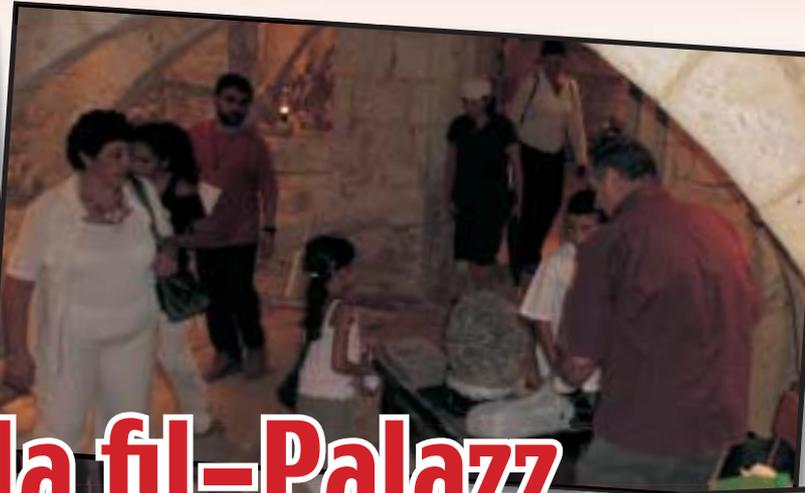


Focus

Newsletter of the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce



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Arti u Bizzilla fil-Palazz



A Very Impressive Notte Bianca

The Society once again took part in this year's Notte Bianca. We can confidently say that this year's edition, where it concerned the Society, was even better than last year's. Our theme this year was "Arti u Bizilla fil Palazz." (Art and Lace in the Palace).

Fifteen artists set up easels in the beautifully lit courtyard where they displayed some of their work and painted away, attracting many visitors. Several lace makers worked in the room adjacent to the courtyard, where they also displayed several beautiful lace pieces. Other artists painted outside together with sculptors working in stone and with clay in the Society's basement which was opened for the first time. All visitors were offered a complementary glass of wine and a few eats.

In the upstairs halls an exhibition organized by the Art DM was viewed by hundreds of art lovers who could also admire the Sala Dei Cavalieri which was especially opened for the occasion. Two guitarists played throughout the night, while the Society also arranged for an accordionist dressed in Maltese traditional costume to play throughout the Palazzo. Outside in the street plays based on Commedia D'Arte by a group of actors attracted the crowds.



The Patrons meets the Council of the Society

H.E. the President of the Republic, Dr Edward Fenech Adami and H.G. Mons. Pawl Cremona met the Society's Council Members at the President's Palace in Valletta on the 21st June, 2007 and a commemorative photo was taken of the occasion.

Editorial

In the Society's last newsletter, we had stated that refurbishment of the exhibition halls will take place in the summer. Unfortunately we did not manage to do this in time and the refurbishment is now planned for January – March. The Society has embarked on a programme to upgrade the lighting in these halls and after obtaining professional advice and issuing a call for quotations the necessary equipment has been purchased and will be delivered in the coming weeks. It is the intention of the Society to have one of the best exhibition halls in the island. This is what our member artists deserve.

Anyone recently visiting the Society's premises will immediately note the work that has been carried out over the past few months. Classrooms have been painted. Improved lighting in the classrooms and the courtyard has been installed. A new glass door mounted. The

basement has been cleared and lighting installed, making it suitable for use by the Society. We are also upgrading the plumbing and drainage and the toilets.

The Society has also been working on trying to restore the Sala dei Cavalieri, which is one of the best well kept secrets in Malta. The Society's wish is for this magnificent room to be fully restored and open to the public for everyone to enjoy. However, the restoration costs are quite mind- boggling and besides the wall paintings, priority has to be given to the outside walls of the Palazzo and particularly of this room. Without restoring the outside walls all inside restoration would be in vain and should not be done. Once again, the cost of the outside restoration as quoted to us, is quite substantial and way beyond the financial capabilities of the Society. We are trying to obtain funding from the Government, to try to preserve and restore this important part of Malta's heritage.

Besides all the above the Society also had a record number of students for

the Summer Courses, over 500 students participating. New activities were introduced during summer, such as the Art Sale and the Summer Concert, which are reported upon in this issue of Focus, besides the very successful 6th National Art Competition and Exhibition at the Trade Fair. One must also add the Notte Bianca which was also very successful. The Society also held the London College of Music Examinations, which were attended by hundreds of music students, and besides the Annual LCM concert, the Young Musicians Competition was also organized.

It should come as a surprise to members to learn that the supporting staff of the Society, which carried out all these activities, consists of just two full timers and four part-timers. The dedication of the staff is to be admired and I am sure that all members will agree that a heartfelt thank you to the staff for all the work carried out during the hot summer months will not be amiss.

ArtSale and a.....

During the evenings of the 4th, 5th and 6th July the public was invited to the Society's premises in Valletta, where 33 artists were selling their work from various stands. Members of the public could just come along and choose from the many paintings, drawings and sculptures on display and take it home with them. A few sales were made and the event also served as an opportunity for the artists taking part to get to know one another.



.....Summer Concert at Palazzo de La Salle



The Denner Clarinet Quartet were the protagonists at the first Summer Concert organized by the Society in the courtyard of its premises. They played a variety of light music, and during the interval all those present were treated to a complementary glass of wine by the Society and were invited to visit the art exhibition by Eman Grima which was kept open for the occasion. A most enjoyable evening was spent by the many people present, the vast majority of whom were non-Maltese.

More successful Courses

The Society's Summer Courses were again quite successful with over 500 students attending. For the first time the Society held Life Drawing and Painting Classes in the summer afternoons. Classes in Manga Art were also held, attracting so many students that two classes had to be held. The usual classes in Art, all levels but mostly children, Arts & Crafts, Embroidery and Embroidery in Gold, Ganutell, Glass Painting, Clay Sculpture, Parchment Craft, Beading, Malta Lace, Crochet, Knitting, Dressmaking, Tailoring, Interior Design, Woodcarving, together with Pianoforte, Violin, Guitar, Electric Guitar and Theory of Music were all held during the Summer mornings and are expected to continue and increase during the Winter months.

Membership Dues (2008)

We remind members that their membership fee for 2008 will soon fall due. Please forward Lm2 (€4.66) to the Society.

Website Dues (2008)

Those artists who wish to be mentioned in the Society's website are also reminded to forward the fee of Lm2 (€4.66) for their names to be inserted.



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Art Classes in Republic Street This September as in previous years a number of classes of young students were held in Republic Street in front of the Law Courts. These attracted the attention of passers-by and stimulated interest in their paintings some of which were displayed on the railings in front of the Law Courts.



Minister of Education, Youth and Employment, Dr Louis Galea is seen presenting the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce Prize to final year National Diploma student Stefano Zammit of the MCAST Institute of Art and Design. Mr Zammit will retain the trophy for one year.

Three Art Exhibitions at the Palazzo

Over the last few months the Society saw three major exhibitions held in its exhibition halls. The June Exhibition by artist Eman Grima, who exhibited 87 works of art, mainly nudes and abstract, was quite popular and attracted the attention of many art connoisseurs. This was followed in early September by a photographic exhibition by the Portuguese Embassy. In late September the Society then hosted an exhibition by Art DM which included work by several well known artists among the 23 artists who were exhibiting in various media.

Fiorella Camilleri wins the Young Musicians Contest



Fiorella Camilleri was the overall winner of the seventh edition of the Young Musicians Contest organized by the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. The Finals were held at the Casino Maltese. Twenty one young musicians took part in this edition of the contest which was restricted to string, woodwind and brass instruments. The competitors were divided into two categories, Promising i.e. under seventeen years of age, and Mature, i.e. under thirty years of age. Augusto Quintano won the Promising Category, with Jean Noel Attard and Clara Galea placing second and third respectively. Fiorella Camilleri won the Mature Category, with Michael Bonanno and Maria Bonnici placing second and third respectively.

All top three placings in both categories won cash prizes while Fiorella Camilleri will also benefit from a two week scholarship at the London College of Music at Thames University, London.

The London College of Music, the Malta Council for Culture and the Arts and Karta Coverters Ltd sponsored the Contest.

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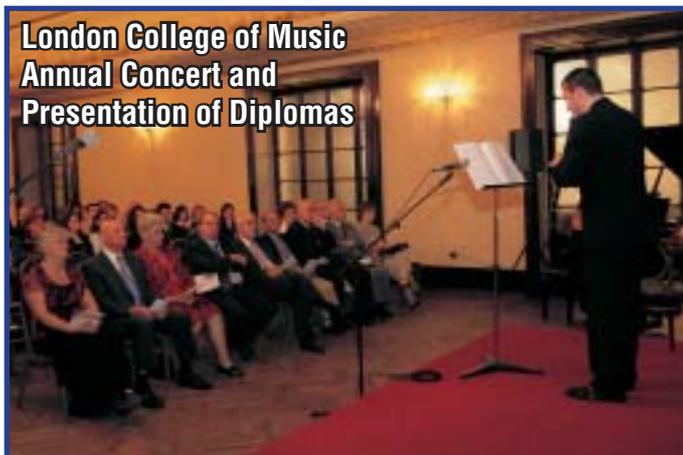




Jude Zammit wins the 6th National Art Competition

The 6th National Art Competition and Exhibition held in July and sponsored by the Malta Trade Fairs Corporation, was won by Jude Zammit with his painting "Images". First Runner Up was Rupert Cefai with "Building Composition in Marine Blue". Second Runner Up was George Muscat with his ceramic work "Arcipelago". Consolation prizes were awarded to Elizabeth Borg with "Vision of a Sunflower 2" and Damian Ebejer with "Portrait of a Soul". The following artists were awarded Honorable Mentions: Adrian Abela (Il-Hmat Tal-Klassi), Carmelo Vella (Space and Transparency), Tanja Van Poucke (Protect Our Beautiful Nature), Joseph Pulo (Untitled), Debbie Seychell (Bicycle), Mark Scicluna (Red Passion), Godfrey Scicluna (Under The Sea), David Spagnol (Untitled), Walter Vella (The Onion), and Zell Osborne (Explorer).

The Society was encouraged by the record number of artists and works of art. In fact 127 artists participated with 197 works of art. The comments by the public in the Visitors' Book were very positive as can be seen by a few examples quoted below: "Excellently set up" "Wonderful art." "A real delight" "The Society is getting back to the old glorious years when it used to be the top art organization in Malta" "Great show of talent. Keep it up".



The Casino Maltese was once again a splendid venue for the awards ceremony of the London College of Music Diplomas. 20 students received their Diplomas while 42 Grade 6 – 8 students who achieved a distinction also received their certificates. A number of Diploma students regaled the large audience present with some excellent pieces of music prior to the presentation ceremony.

