



At the Societies' Convention 2014 we are honoured to have not one but six photographers from Malta injecting some Mediterranean flair into the proceedings. Each photographer will be delivering a unique Masterclass or two at the Convention, giving an insight into their own working practices and their passions.

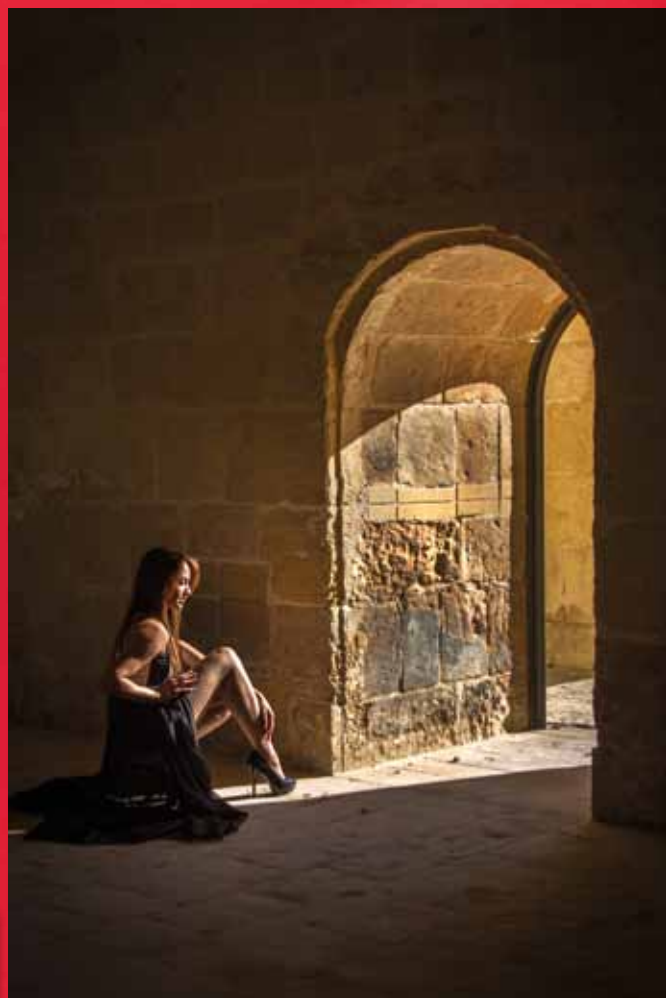
## KEVIN CASHA

With over 25 years of experience with photography, Kevin Casha knows a thing or two about what makes a great photograph. As the President of the Malta Institute of Professional Photography, you can be sure that he holds the work of those he judges to the highest standard.



At the Convention, Kevin will be giving a Masterclass discussing what judges are looking for when they view panels of photographs. 'You have to be passionate about the images that you choose. The images should not only be technically perfect but should contain factors which make a judge stand up and notice'. The Masterclass will encourage debate between delegates on what makes a great panel and there will be many examples of imagery to view and discuss.

Kevin has always felt that he had an affinity for photographing and interacting with people and has focused his career on capturing the human condition. Reflecting on where he finds ideas for his work Kevin says: 'I find my inspirations come from keeping abreast of what is happening both in the photography world and in the art sphere. There are so many brilliant people out there. If you keep researching and studying other's work, ideas and concepts you cannot help but be influenced'. Never one to stand still for a moment, Kevin is currently preparing both a retrospective exhibition of his work and writing a book on the history of Maltese photography. This surely means that 2014 is going to be the year to watch for those who enjoy his work!



# SERGIO MUSCAT

Sergio Muscat is an artist working primarily with the medium of photography. He is inspired by many of the great artists of the twentieth century such as Duchamp, Picasso and Pollock, and is fascinated by both modern and abstract art. With an upcoming music photography exhibition, I asked Sergio what he particularly enjoys about photographing musicians. 'Jazz allows for a very free performance and you can feel the emotion pouring into the music. I find I can lose myself, connecting with both the music and the performer. The result for me is more than just an image, it is a collaboration between musician and photographer through the music.'



*Image by Alexandra Pace*

His Masterclass at the Societies' Convention 2014 will be an inspirational journey through abstract art, its history and how it found its way into photography. Sergio tells me: 'The Masterclass is titled 'Free your mind' because in reality that covers the biggest chunk of approaching abstract photography'. He hopes that those who attend his class will leave with a sense of curiosity and a will to delve inside themselves and express what they find through their art. The Masterclass will surely be both challenging and rewarding for those who wish to explore new areas with photography.



# ALAN CARVILLE

An internationally acclaimed architecture photographer discussing iPhone photography? Whatever next! But Alan Carville is not only talking about iPhone photography at the Societies' Convention 2014, it has also become an integrated part of his working practice. 'I use my phone on just about every professional shoot that I do. It could be for looking at the natural lighting direction, drawing diagrams or even checking the weather.'



With clients now asking for images specifically for social media as a part of hiring a professional photographer, Alan will be talking about the impact that the iPhone has had on the industry. 'Mobile photography has had an influence on the perception of the cost of hiring photographers. People are wondering why, if you can produce images in a matter of seconds, they are paying so much.' However, he is quick to also talk about the benefits of the iPhone as a camera: 'A fundamental part of photography is the power of observation, which is something that needs to be practised. Sometimes camera controls can get in the way of doing things; the iPhone gives you a way to remove yourself from the controls and start seeing again.'

Alan's Masterclass at the Societies' Convention 2014 will give the opportunity to discuss technical working methods as well as discussing groups who are using the iPhone as a legitimate tool for producing art. It will conclude with a slide show of 365 images taken throughout the year, demonstrating the huge variety of ways that an iPhone can be used creatively.



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# DARRIN ZAMMIT-LUPI

'The best part of being a photojournalist is that no two days are the same,' Darrin Zammit-Lupi says to me. 'And it's immensely satisfying to learn that your pictures have made a positive difference in someone's life.' Over the last few years Darrin's work has been focused on the movement of African immigrants to Malta and he is currently working on a book to display the many powerful images that he has taken. Working for both *The Times of Malta* and Reuters means that his images have helped play a major part in promoting tolerance and combating racism both within Malta and further afield.

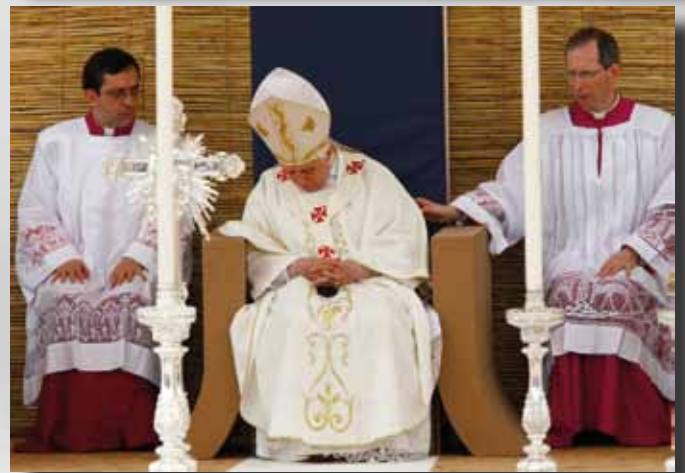


At the Societies' Convention 2014 Darrin will be talking about what life is like as a photojournalist. 'It's not quite as glamorous as many people make it out to be; it requires a great deal of self-sacrifice and single-mindedness to do the job properly.' However, he also adds that he would not change his line of work for any other, a testament to the exciting life of a photojournalist. If you're interested in seeing what the busy life of a photojournalist is really like, this is one Masterclass that you simply cannot afford to miss.

**RIGHT TOP:** A would-be immigrant climbs onto an Armed Forces of Malta ship after being transferred from a trawler, around 80 nautical miles south of Malta, May 31, 2007. Twenty-seven would-be immigrants, believed to all be from Somalia, were rescued by the Sicilian trawler 'Esaco' when their boat capsized as they attempted to reach European soil from Africa, authorities said.



**RIGHT:** Pope Benedict XVI nods off during a mass at the Granaries in Floriana April 18, 2010.



**BELOW:** The cruise liner Costa Concordia, which ran aground off the west coast of Italy, is seen at dusk at Giglio island.



# DOMENIC AQUILINA

'It's the action and the adrenalin that I enjoy,' Domenic Aquilina enthuses. 'Especially when there are big prizes involved! The venue, the atmosphere, you feel like you are there to capture the most important images of the event!' Specialising in football, rugby and boxing, Domenic's relentless attitude to seeking opportunities has led to him covering the last eight Champions League Finals and becoming part of the UEFA Photographers' Pool. It may have taken years of hard work and trying to prove himself, but Domenic has finally made it to the top of his game.



Sports photography is a hot topic amongst many photographers. It's a prestigious genre to shoot but it sometimes seems that, unless you know the right person, there is no way into the circle of accredited photographers. At the Societies' Convention 2014 Domenic will be giving a Masterclass where he will reveal the secrets of the industry. 'I will be giving a full rundown of what makes a professional sports photographer and what clients look for. Accreditation, copyright issues and the wiring of images from the venue, it will all be in the presentation.' This Masterclass is truly unmissable for anyone who aspires to introduce sports photography to their business.



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# RAMON SAMMUT

'The secret to a fine art portrait is when the photographer stops the moment and captures feelings, emotions, stillness, passion and beauty in a way that perfectly portrays the subject they are shooting.' Ramon Sammut is passionate about creating fine art images and knows exactly how to get the results he wants.



Both an experienced photographer and printer, Ramon will be giving two classes at the Societies' Convention 2014. One is a Masterclass in how to prepare fine art photographs where he will discuss understanding light, composition and post processing as well as actually printing the final images. This will be an opportunity to view fine art photographs created with older processes too, as well as investigate and compare different styles of printing.

The second is a Superclass in fine art portraiture where the participants will get a real hands-on experience. Under Ramon's supervision they will get to take some images and learn about classical lighting techniques. From there Ramon will use one of the photographs taken to look at post-processing techniques to finish the images. He tells me: 'It's a very long journey from snapper to photographer, hopefully these classes will shorten that time for the delegates!'




*The Maltese Way*  
 Westminster Suite, Hilton London Metropole Hotel  
 17th January 2014 at 18:00hrs



AT THE CONVENTION TWENTY 14

Come and join in and view the best that Maltese Photography has to offer. This is a joint inspirational motivating get-together by seven of Malta's top photographers! It will also be the opportunity to taste some Maltese Wine and socialise and network on photography!

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