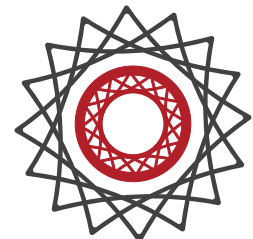


# FOCAL POINT



Photography by Keith Elul



THE MALTA INSTITUTE  
OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

**ISSUE 99**

The Official  
MIPP Newsletter

[www.mipp-malta.com](http://www.mipp-malta.com)

2022  
MARCH | APRIL

## GUEST EDITORIAL

By immediate past president of MIPP, Kevin Casha



It has surely been one of the most difficult decisions of my life: to decide to leave the helm of the Malta Institute of Professional Photography (MIPP) and re-assess my future. I have spent over 42 years active in photography-related committees and dedicating a huge portion of my time and efforts to improve photography and photographers in Malta. I have given this crusade my all for so many years and, whether I have been successful or not, history will tell.

Would I have done some things differently? Naturally, I have done mistakes and yes, of course with hindsight everyone is wiser; however, one thing I can vouch for is that I have always taken decisions for the general good in what I have always believed in – that photography and photographers in Malta merit every respect, both locally as well as internationally. For years, I have had to find the right balance between my work, my family and my own personal career.

I have few regrets as I sincerely believe that what we have achieved during the last four decades we never thought we would – the successes far outweigh the failures. All those who have in some way or another participated in this journey can testify to that. In fact, when I look back, it is with an overall sense of pride and satisfaction that I compare where local photography is today and where it was in 1980 – when I started seriously engaging with this fascinating art medium. So many have contributed throughout this journey and I will purposely not state any names as I am sure to forget some valid protagonists.

“

**ALL THOSE WHO  
HAVE IN SOME  
WAY OR ANOTHER  
PARTICIPATED IN  
THIS JOURNEY CAN  
TESTIFY**

”

Why did I decide this move now? Firstly, I am not getting any younger and with age, it seems inevitable that our priorities change and perhaps also our level of enthusiasm. I had been feeling the personal ups and downs for the past few years, but I wanted to keep pushing in order to make the dream that the MIPP would finally have its own premises. After achieving that, the pandemic situation reared its head and so I felt I could not leave before the storm could in some way abate. I have always thrived on challenges and seeking new projects and as I said earlier, I sincerely wanted to enable the MIPP to make a gradual change to new leadership. A sudden change is not ideal and finding the right persons willing and able to give so much of their time and efforts to keeping the MIPP on track has never been so difficult. However, it was finally time to move on and enable the introduction of new and younger faces, with hopefully renewed enthusiasm and drive.

Dr Charles Paul Azzopardi has decided to take on the challenge of taking over the Presidency – together with a seven-person team behind him. I am fully confident that the will and ability are there. What I appeal to all members is for them to give the new MIPP Executive Committee their full support and participate fully in all the photographic opportunities MIPP strives so much to provide to its members. Are we ready to do our part?

I really augur the new President and Executive Committee the best of luck and look forward to a further growth and expansion of MIPP.

Kevin Casha, Immediate Past President, MIPP

Editor: *Charles Paul Azzopardi* | Design: *Sita Azzopardi*

If you want your photographs featured on the newsletter's front page just send the images to: [submissions@mipp-malta.com](mailto:submissions@mipp-malta.com).

Your contributions are always welcome

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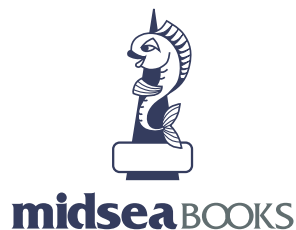


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Park



Photography by Charles Paul Azzopardi



Photography by Marija Grech

Photography by Matty Cremona







Photography by Marija Grech



# STILL IMAGE AWARD



## GIANLUCA AGIUS

My name is Gianluca Agius, and my background is that of a student and a business owner. I come from a family of photographers as both my grandfathers, as well as father were photographers in their past, but do not let that fool you into thinking I simply got into photography due to them! I also like cars (what my business is based on), love travelling and experiencing the natural world around us!

I am 23 years old, will be 24 in March. I graduated from University of Malta with a Bachelors of Science in Earth systems, which is basically the study of the interaction in the physical, chemical and biological systems of Earth. Today I am running an Automotive Detailing business I started when I was 19 while still studying.

I have been into photography for over 10 years. My main influence was my maternal grandfather, Gino Theuma, who was a photographer himself, although initially I did not have much interest other than knowing my grandfather, and father both were photographers, it later became a form of creative expression for myself.

Slight influences from family in the beginning, then capturing moments with friends as we began





enjoying our free time as adolescences when I got my first high end camera, it then spiraled into something much greater as time went on and I began developing my own styles.

My first camera was a point and shoot Olympus (cannot for the life of me remember the model) given to me as a present for my first Holy Communion. My first 'big boy' camera was a Fujifilm HS20. Today I shoot on a Canon 5D Mark IV.

I never really took any photography courses apart from a simple after school activity offered in Form 1. Everything I know is mostly self taught, or adapting styles from external influences that I liked.

I joined MIPP in 2021 - the workshops and talks that are held really do help open your eyes into other perspectives, the MIPP is really a place one can get constructive criticism from and spend time with likeminded individuals to learn and possibly also pass on techniques, tips and trick otherwise learnt through a lot of experience out in the field.

I never really like to classify myself as taking one genre of photo, as I really do like taking photos of whatever scenario I find myself in, but if I were to say there is one style/genre that I excel the most at, it would definitely be Automotive photography!

I think the number one thing I tell people when they start off is that it is ok if your photos do not look as good as maybe some of the more professional photographers they might follow. It is important to just go out there, shoot as many photos as you want and just have as much fun as you can. Photography is an





Art, and just like any other type of art, everyone develops their own styles over time, so it's just important to go out, have fun and play around with different ideas you have. I also believe it is super important to shoot in manual mode as early on as you can, as you begin to develop your skills in photography and begin to look at scenes while instantly thinking of the right settings for your camera. You need to become one with your camera to really make the most out of it. Oh - and never shoot jpeg. Always shoot RAW hehe.

There are a few photographers I admire, the main one I have been following for years and really have taken an inspiration from, is Ben Brown (@benjam on instagram) a couple of others would be Alex Penfold (@

alexpenfold) and Simon Puschmann (@simonpuschmann) .. but thats just naming a few, as really and truly I take inspiration from things that I see everyday from many different places :)

I hopefully plan to attend courses in sectors of photography that I feel I might be lacking experience in, or want to try explore, a few examples would be architectural photography as well as portrait photography! Choosing 3 favourites from my collection was much harder than I imagined! But here there are:

Something about this photo really stand out for me - it is somewhat difficult to find unique locations in Malta, but when I found this place, I just fell in love with how it makes the car pop out of place, kind of making it look like a computer render.

This is probably my favourite shot in my portfolio for a number of reasons. Although it may not



be perfect, it is the shot I get the most compliments on till this day, it is the one that is the most comparable to professional shots taken for advertisements by car brands (which was my goal here) and just the honour of shooting this car which is the only one in Malta! (as of writing this) a Porsche 911 (992) GT3!

Nothing can quite describe the feeling of being in Iceland, and when I went there on a adventure trip with some of my friends in September 2021, I really wanted to make sure I captured the Northern lights. After a long day exploring, being tired, wet and cold I set up my camera at one of Icelands most famous waterfalls, and with the patience of my friend in frame, I set up this shot and took it over a few exposures simply balancing my camera on a rock I found on the river bank!



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# CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER



NB: DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC, ALL THOSE ATTENDING MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS ETC. ARE ADVISED TO WEAR A MASK & FOLLOW OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.



MARCH 2022

MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING  
TRANSITIONING FROM  
STILLS TO VIDEO  
MALCOLM DEBONO

8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH | 18:30



MARCH 2022

MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING  
INNER WORKINGS  
ANN PROCHILLO

15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH | 18:30



MARCH 2022

MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING  
BEING CREATIVE IN OVER  
PHOTOGRAPHED LOCATIONS  
MICHELE AGIUS

22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH | 18:30



MARCH 2022

MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING  
LONG EXPOSURES - FROM  
START TO ACCLAIM  
CHARLES PAUL AZZOPARDI

29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH | 18:30 76, MIPP, BRITANNIA STREET, PAOLA

APRIL 2022

MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING  
QUALIFICATION  
JUDGING

5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL | 18:30 76, MIPP, BRITANNIA STREET, PAOLA

APRIL 2022

MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING  
ARCHITECTURAL  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
ALAN CARVILLE

12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL | 18:30 76, MIPP, BRITANNIA STREET, PAOLA

APRIL 2022

MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING  
CONNECTING WITH  
NATURE'S ELEMENTS  
KURT ARRIGO

19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL | 18:30 76, MIPP, BRITANNIA STREET, PAOLA

APRIL 2022

MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING  
BLACK & WHITE VISION  
KEITH ELLUL

26<sup>TH</sup> April | 18:30 76, mIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

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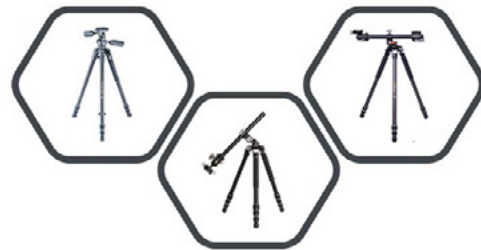
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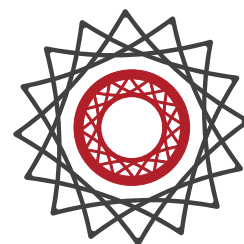


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The MIPP feels it is vital to stimulate joint events and initiatives together with our sponsors. This policy helps our members to be constantly aware of products and services that our sponsors market thus not only encouraging an increase in business but also benefitting our members through special occasional offers and deals.

This co-operation and belief by our sponsors, most of who have been with us since the MIPP's inception, has helped in no small way in making the Institute what it is today. It is one of the MIPP's main objectives to help to keep this co-operation improving. We urge our members to truly support our sponsors by making use of their services and products whenever possible.

The main sponsors of MIPP are AVANTECH (CANON); ILAB Photo, PHOTOCIANCIO (FUJI), PHOTOIMAGES, INTERVISIONS, PHOTOINK, MIDSEA.

Our sponsors show faith in the MIPP so it is only fair that our members should reciprocate. Give your custom to the companies and entities who help us.








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