

FOCAL POINT



Photography by - BY EDWARD SAINT FOURNIER

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The Official
MIPP Newsletter

www.mipp-malta.com



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PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

Dear Members,

Keeping adjourned with all that goes on around us and with our approaching milestone of twenty-five continuous years that the MIPP has been in operation, we felt it was opportune to conduct a wholesome re-branding exercise of our Institute. We wanted to concentrate on keeping in mind what we have achieved to date and what we would like to achieve in the coming years.

The idea was initially put forward by our designer, Sita Azzopardi, who courageously took it upon herself to professionally research, study and execute this vital and demanding 'project.' As is typical of Sita's approach, she took it extremely seriously and during this year, she created a new MIPP corporate identity, researched where the Institute is now placed and where we would like to be in the near future. Without her expertise and resilience, we would not have pulled this off.

The fruits of her work will slowly but surely start being borne in the very near future. The Committee has been analysing the findings, suggestions and outcomes which come out of this and operation has enabled us not only to maintaining our high



standards but to improve them. One of the first items you will encounter will be the new MIPP logo. We thought that it is the right timing to introduce a logo that is newer, fresher and more than dynamic than our current one.

Coupled with this rebranding exercise, Mario Borg, together again with Sita and myself, have worked on revamping our website with the main aim being to upgrade to a simpler yet more user-friendly and up to date site. Therefore, this whole exercise has provided the Committee with the necessary tools in order to continue to embrace change and maintain the evolving process of our Institute.

Furthermore, now that we have settled the premises and have no debts whatsoever on it, we are now able to invest further in order to improve our services. A new set of LED lights have been purchased in order to enhance the lighting conditions during our Qualification judging sessions. Photoimages, the local Interfit distributor, helped us with a very attractive deal so this would be possible. Furthermore, a new, more transparent and accountable judging system will be introduced during this November's judging. We also intend to invest in other hardware in the very near future. This way, at least, our members can be assured that these difficult pandemic times have not been at all wasted by our Committee. Nothing will please us more than seeing our members benefit from our efforts.

Kevin Casha

President

Editor:
Kevin Casha

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Sita Azzopardi

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Various contributors

Proof Reading:
Edward Sant Fournier

If you want your photographs featured on the newsletter's front page just send the images to: courses@mipp-malta.com
Your contributions are always welcome



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LET'S TRY AND HELP OUR SPONSORS!

Dear Members and friends,

In these difficult times, our thoughts should go to those who are facing problems with their income due to the complete or partial closure of their businesses. We are all in some way or other effected, but some are feeling the brunt more than others and I feel we should all try and come together and help in whatever manner possible. As you well know, the MIPP is attempting to tide over the time in the best way possible, with our resources.





My second appeal and thought goes out to the MIPP's main sponsors, most of whom have employees and large bills to meet. In this dire time, why don't we all go through our images and work and try and print that travel album, that family picture etc? That way, in our own little way, we can try to help our sponsors by giving them some work, however small, in a period where they have none? This quiet period will also help us get over our backlog and things which we have been putting back. What better way than to look at our past memories and immortalise them in a photobook? Again, this appeal goes to those who can as for those who are hard up charity, naturally, begins at home.

Just to remind you of our main sponsors, (who can still be contacted online), they are the following:





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WORKSHOPS

A selection of images from the recent workshop done before the pandemic took hold, with Martin Agius as instructor. The photographs are from the participants who attended the workshop.



Photography by Leon Caruana



Photography by John Cilia





Photography by Leonard Cocks



Photography by Daniel Bonello



Photography by Simon Debatrista



OUTDOOR EXHIBITION

Last year, various MIPP members participated in an initiative by the Planning Authority which featured local iconic buildings that are being protected and nurtured. The outdoor exhibition was first shown in Sliema and recently it was staged in Valletta. Images show some of the exhibition panels. .





As most members have noticed, this year we have been recording our online sessions and placing them in our YouTube Channel.

That way members can at thier convenience access them at anytime.

CLICK ON THE SESSION TO VIEW



MIPP Malta
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SUBSCRIBE

<p>9 Iconic Fashion Photographers by Kevin Casha 16th June</p>  <p>@18:45 on SKYPECHAT group MIPP MEMBERS ONLINE MEETING</p>	<p>1 Expression, Emotion, Execution by Stephen Buhagiar September</p>  <p>19:00 MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING</p>
<p>13 Publishing your first book From planning to publication by Charles Paul Azzopardi 10th October</p>  <p>@19:00 on SKYPECHAT group MIPP MEMBERS ONLINE MEETING</p>	<p>6 Image Review Night Members to send a maximum of 3 JPG Images each for review 10th October</p>  <p>@19:00 on SKYPECHAT group MIPP MEMBERS ONLINE MEETING</p>
<p>15 Apples & Globes by Gail Ciantar & Robert Cuschieri 10th September</p> <p>The challenging journey of two students in the Still Image Award during the pandemic.</p>  <p>@19:00 on SKYPECHAT group MIPP MEMBERS ONLINE MEETING</p>	<p>11 Portrait Photography by Kevin Casha 10th August</p>  <p>@19:00 on SKYPECHAT group MIPP MEMBERS ONLINE MEETING</p>





Photography by Duncan Cauchi



Photography by Charles Mifsud





Photography by GAIL CIANTAR





Photography by BRIAN CASSAR





Photography by ROBERT CUSHCHIERI



Brian Agius during his lecture



Keith Ellul and students at his Landscape Master class



Do you want to be part of the
MIPP newsletter
by providing us with your write-ups,
photographs or any interesting features?
send email to : courses@mipp-malta.com



MIPP MEMBERS EXHIBIT IN JAPAN



In October, five MIPP members were invited to showcase their work during exhibitions at the Mediterranean Conference Centre and subsequently at the Tokyo Arts Theatre in Japan.

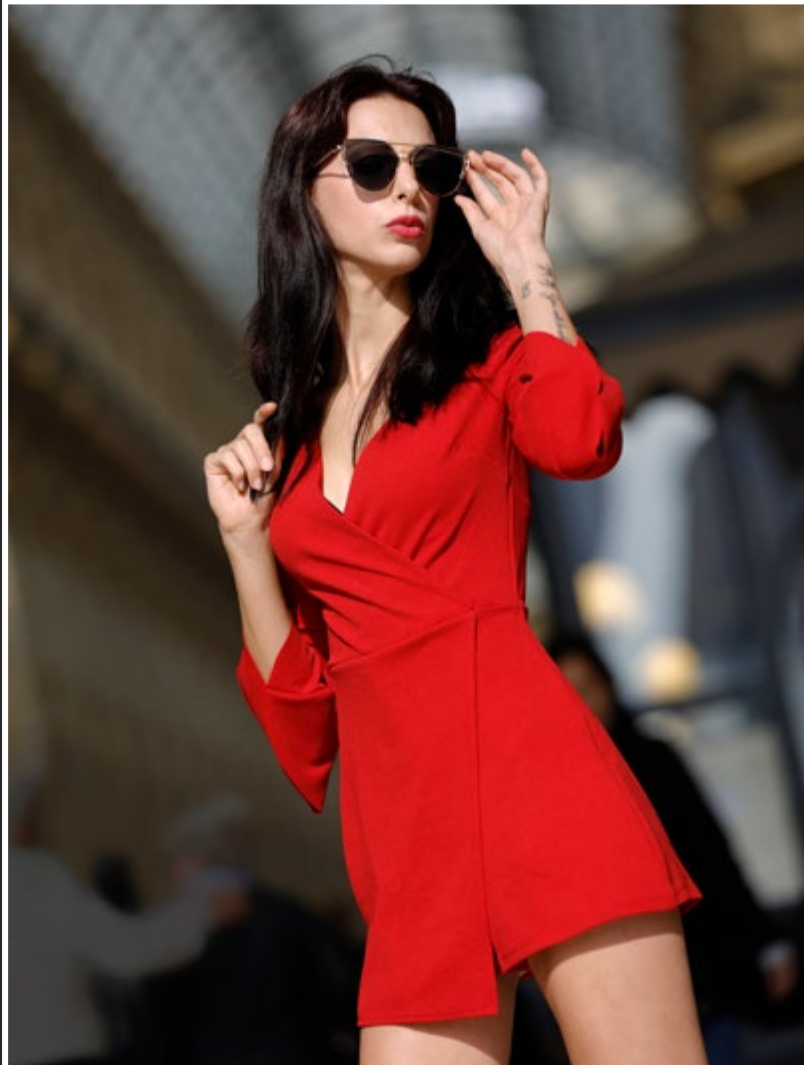
The exhibitions were organised by the Japan Europe Palace Art Association and featured over 300 exhibits by mainly Japan artists together with a section for Maltese artists.

The MIPP photographers were Stefan Aquilina, Martin Agius, Keith Ellul, Duncan Cauchi and Kevin Casha. The local event was curated by artist Joseph Barbara.





FRANCO CARUANA



Franco Caruana was born in Malta and is 59 years old. Presently he lives and works in Italy very close to the capital Milan. He is single and has family in Italy, England and Malta.

He works as an Electronic Engineer with STMicroelectronics working on the development of new microchips. When he was still living in Malta, he was active in the St John Ambulance as a staff officer. He is also a First Aid Instructor and is currently an officer in the Venerable Order of St John.

How photography started

His interest in Photography dates to 1976 when he was a student at St. Aloysius College. It was about 20 years later when photography started being more of a professional function.

It all started when he started to process black and white film and photos during the break time at St. Aloysius College as an activity. He then got his own dark room at home and interest in photography always started increasing though just as a hobby. Apart from B/W film and print he also started to process colour slides. While at University, photography took the back burner so that Franco could concentrate on my Engineering studies. Once he finished University and started working at STMicroelectronics he was overwhelmed with requests for photoshoots.

At this point in time, Franco saw his photography skills evolve into a part time profession. This ensued until he started travelling frequently due to his Engineering work. Today, however, photography remains his both passion and a hobby, a welcome opportunity to do something other than his Engineering work. Living close to Milano which is one of the fashion capitals of the world gives him the opportunity to develop his photography genre further.



Technical equipment

Franco's first camera was a simple instamatic. Then he purchased a 35mm Zenith E camera followed by an Olympus. Once Digital commenced in 2001, he started using jointly my Olympus SLR and he also had a small fuji compact camera. He used to shoot events with both the Olympus (and therefore 35mm Film) as well as the fuji digital compact camera to immediately send photos to the press, etc. His first event using this dual Film/Digital was in 2001 during a Beauty Contest in Colombia. For processing the B/W in the 70's and 80's Franco had a simple BW Enlarger which also had a colour filter tray, but he did not attempt colour print processing. Today Franco uses a Canon 5D MK4 and his favourite lens is the 70-200 f2.8 . It is a wonderful lens though is a bit heavy.



Education

Franco attended one photography course which was the Master di Moda of the John Kaverdash Academy of Milan. This was towards the end of the 1990's.



Following this course his photography was transformed from the traditional crops, etc. to the present style. He also learnt a lot from the MIPP yearly seminars and especially the print critiques. He had several of what used to be favourite photos at the time massacred by the visiting photographers who were in the critique panel and from them he learnt a lot Some of the techniques which the judges recommended have remained with him till this very day.

Franco had joined the MIPP from its very inception. He appreciates the input it has in his photography profession which is the reason that he remained a member. Unfortunately, due to the fact that he is living in Italy it is difficult to attend the meetings – with the exception of this year since most were held online – and he hopes to be able to participate in next years' MIPP 25th Anniversary Celebrations.



Franco's genres of photos

Franco's main line of photography is Model photography (Fashion & Glamour). His secondary line is landscape as he enjoys taking photos of Mountains and Lakes. He has attended several local events in the fashion genre as well as many international beauty contests most of which he was asked to sit on the panel of judges.

Recommendation and Conclusion

Franco mentions that in the line of fashion and glamour photography, it is of paramount importance to be professional and serious in attitude and not to try to abuse of the situation. By abusing of the situation, he specifically refers to respectful approach one must take towards the model such as keeping a respectable distance and avoid touching. "You only do one mistake, and it remains stamped on you for all your life" he adds. He adds that any photographer working in this genre needs to overcome the challenge of portraying a person in two-dimensional mode whilst keeping in mind that this person would wish to emerge as photogenically as possible. Therefore pose, clothing, position of the face and light are aspects that are very challenging and come about with a lot of experience.

The interviews published in this journal give us the opportunity to get to know our fellow members better and benefit from the experiences and insights they share with us. As has been the case in past interviews, members reading this journal are encouraged to contact and share experiences with the member being interviewed. Franco not being the exception of our interviewed members has offered to share further experiences with members interested in the Fashion and Glamour Genre. He can be reached on franco.caruana@gmail.com and



on Instagram on francar2013



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CALENDAR

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER



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



MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING

PRACTICAL TIPS ON USING DSLR VIDEO BY JEAN PIERRE GATT

Tuesday 3rd November | 19:00



MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING

THE COMMITTEE MEETS THE MEMBERS

The purpose of this meeting is so that members are informed of various benefits that the MIPP offers as well as to meet the committee & give their input and feedback.

Tuesday 10th November | 19:00



MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING

SO YOU WANT TO BE A JUDGE? PART 2 - BY KEVIN CASHA

Tuesday 24th November | 19:00

NOVEMBER /2020

MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING

JUDGING OF MIPP QUALIFICATIONS

SESSION 1

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER | 19:00

MIPP, 76 BRITANNIA STREET, PAOLA

SESSION 2

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER | 19:00

MIPP, 76 BRITANNIA STREET, PAOLA

(SUBJECT TO THE NUMBER OF PANELS ENTERED)

ATTENDANCE IS OPEN ONLY TO THOSE SUBMITTING THEIR PANEL DUE TO PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS.



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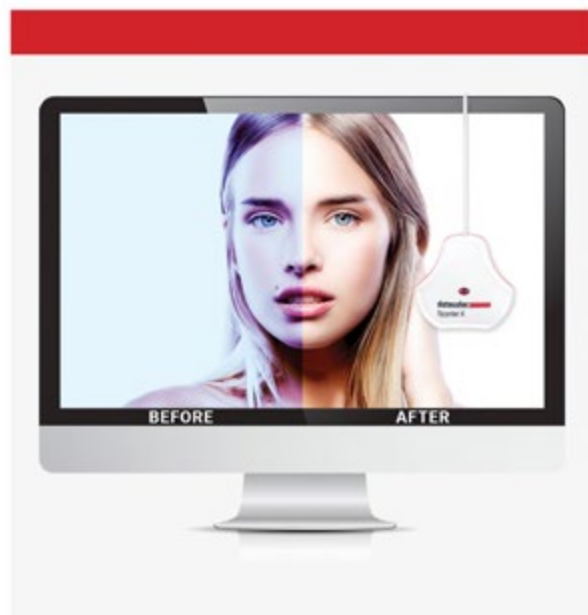
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NOTICE:



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SHOULD YOU NOT BE RECEIVING REGULAR EMAIL UPDATES AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MIPP, KINDLY CHECK AND INFORM US ASAP IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR EMAIL.



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THE MIPP SPONSORS

Non-Profit organizations like the Malta Institute of Professional Photography are constantly in need of funds in order to be able to function in a modern and professional manner. That is why it is important to have various sponsors interested in networking with the MIPP and at the same time involving them in important issues concerning the photographic trade.

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) and PHOTOIMAGES.

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.





CONTACTS

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