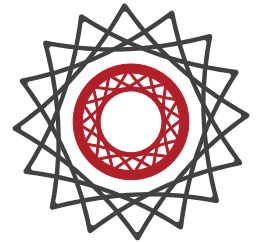


FOCAL POINT



Photography by - ROBERT CUSCHIERI



THE MALTA INSTITUTE
OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

ISSUE 92

The Official
MIPP Newsletter

www.mipp-malta.com

2021
JAN | FEB



Photography by Simon DeBattista

PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

Dear Members,

Happy New Year!

I find myself again writing this viewpoint during a pandemic that few realised for how long and in what manner it would affect our lives. It has not been easy to keep drumming up enthusiasm in order to move forward the MIPP, but early on, when this calamity hit us, myself and the committee were determined to put the time to good use. Today I feel we have managed.

As you well know, we have now launched our new website and started benefiting from the re-branding exercise that we undertook. We also managed to successfully run the judging of our yearly Qualifications and this time round, we had a bumper of entries and successes – it does seem that we managed to inspire and encourage our members to go for this difficult but fruitful challenge. During the Qualifications judging, we launched a new system of judging which is more geared at transparency and giving judges the tools to make more targeted assessments, and also to make them further responsible for the marks and decisions they take. I am happy to say that this new system worked very well and will remain in use for the future.

It might not seem a big deal for members but I can assure you that the debate and work that went into this was substantial. Here I would like to thank Keith Ellul for taking the lion's share of this project. The qualification nights (which were two this time, due to the number of panels and also to maintain health precautions) were ably run by Charles Calleja. During these evenings, for the first time, we used the new LED lighting units that we bought from Photoimages Ltd. It was quite an investment for the MIPP but now that we have no debts at all on the premises, we are embarking on buying items in order to give our members a better experience and run matters with the best possible equipment we can afford.

Photography by Simon Debattista



Finally, I would like to thank all those who helped during these nights, particularly the judges who took the risk of accepting to be on the panel without any remuneration, and with so much responsibility. Simon Debattista also merits mention, for professionally doing all the video capturing, editing and stills for free. These persons are giving the MIPP an invaluable service.

I would also like to remind everyone of our yearly Annual General Meeting, which this year will take place on the 9th of March. Whether this meeting will be done at the premises or online remains to be seen due to the pandemic situation; however, your participation will be very much appreciated, as it will give us the encouragement to keep working to improve and increase the benefits MIPP members enjoy.

Kevin Casha
President

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Kevin Casha

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Sita Azzopardi

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Various contributors

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Charles Paul Azzopardi

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 affected, 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 procrastinating. 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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RECOGNITION WERE IT IS DUE:

Just issued - a set of postcards and first day cover commemorating the 100 birth anniversary of Gozitan photographer CARMELA BUHAGIAR MEILAK; the first local female photographer who opened a studio.

It is a good feeling when local photographers are given the credit and recognition they deserve.



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION:

The MIPP congratulates those photographers who participated in the recent competition organised by the Commission on Gender Based Violence & Domestic Violence in collaboration with The Malta Institute of Professional Photography. The competition was part of an awareness raising campaign in view of the International Campaign: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. The successful photographs were printed and displayed in large format at the entrance of Valletta.

Photographs show some of the images on display (courtesy of Mario Borg).



Violence and the threat of violence at home creates fear and can destroy family environments and lead to the break-up of families.

Credit: Mario Borg

At home shouldn't mean at risk, call Supportline **179**

STOP VIOLENCE

Photography by Mario Borg

Domestic abuse often escalates from threats and verbal assault to violence.

Credit: Renata Apanaviciene

If you feel threatened call Supportline **179**

STOP VIOLENCE

Photography by Renata Apanaviciene

MIPP ONLINE SKYPE SESSIONS

TUESDAYS AT 7PM



MIPP MEMBER ONLINE MEETING

<https://join.skype.com/bWrdzH2KpHMg>

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





Photography BY Ivan Gatt - Accordion



Photography by Podge Kelly



Photography by SERGIO MORANA



Photography by Charles Mifsud - Tradition

SUCCESSFUL PANELS

Recent MIPP prize giving to successful 2020 Still Image Award participants and Qualifications. Strange one this year with masks obligatory but the spirit of meeting challenges is the same.

Tonio Polidano, Earl Mallia Duca, Yasmin Dingli, Charles P. Azzopardi, Amanda Hsu (AMIPP); Gail Ciantar Agius, Lucienne Spiteri (LMIPP).

Congratulations to all and welcome to the folds of Qualified MIPP membership.

To see successful panels in full go here:

https://mipp-malta.com/newbrand/?page_id=156

AMIPP PANEL



AMIPP PANEL BY CHARLES PAUL AZZOPARDI

AMIPP PANEL



LMIPP PANEL



LEONARD COCKS

WHO IS LEONARD COCKS?

Leonard is 53 years old and was born in the Mtarfa Military Hospital due to the fact that his father was with the British Services. He lived in Guardamangia until he was 28 years old, where eventually he moved to Fgura, where today he lives with his wife Louiselle and their two daughters, Leah who will be eighteen in January and Lara who is sixteen years old.

He works in the construction industry and is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor with an architectural firm based in Valletta. Between 1998 and 2001, he had enrolled for a correspondence course in order to obtain a professional qualification in Quantity Surveying from the College of Estate Management in the UK. In 2006 he obtained his warrant to work as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in the UK. Prior to being hooked on photography, Leonard was a fanatic aircraft enthusiast and used to build aircraft models, specifically fighter planes. In fact, he used to compete in local competitions and participate in exhibitions with the Association of Model Engineers.

However, when he started studying, all this was put on the back burner as he preferred to spend the little free time he had in outdoor activities. This explains how he still has several models still packed and unused with all the related paint and tools together with a library of books on fighter jets.

HIS PHOTOGRAPHY JOURNEY

He bought his first camera in 1996 when there was one of the very first National Air Shows organised. It was a Z-50 Pentax film camera. He simply wanted to capture the fighter aircraft exhibited during this event. During that time, Leonard was doing a photography course at the Media Centre in Blata l' Bajda, which was conducted by the late Mr Tony Blackman. It was Mr Blackman who encouraged him to join the Malta Photographic Society (MPS) and become a member and start his journey in photography. This all happened 24 years ago, and Leonard is now one of the veteran members of MPS. Eventually Leonard upgraded to a Canon system and bought the EOS 3 together with a 24-70 f2.8 and a 70-200 f2.8. This camera was really his first love and he could instantly notice the leap in the quality of his photographs at that time. The camera was a work horse and the glass really made a difference in the image quality. At that time, he was shooting primarily on transparencies, so he was after punchy colours and correct exposure as much as possible.

In 2008 he then purchased his first digital camera, the Canon 50D, and in 2013 he upgraded to a digital full frame camera, the 5D mk 3. In 2017, he bought a 16-35mm Canon f4 lens and in 2018 the 50mm f1.4.

Leonard considers courses as stepping-stones towards a benchmark. Whenever he does a course it is in order to improve his education on the subject. In the beginning of his journey, courses were the main source to gain knowledge. However, as time went by and with the introduction of the internet and the explosion with the social media channels like YouTube or Vimeo, or downloading e-books, or attending webinars, he tells me that "nowadays it is relatively easy to learn new techniques on practically everything".

Nevertheless, Leonard considers himself to be old school: he attends a course in a class with interaction with

other photographers and printed notes so that he can follow on and also scribble his own notes rather than following courses on a screen.

In fact, he shares a number of “classroom” courses that he attended which include:

- Starting Photography Course – Organised by the MPS -1996
- One to one Digital Photography Course with Mr Ramon Sammut – (2009 to 2010)
- Advance digital Photography Course – Organised by the MPS - 2016
- Advance digital Photography Course – Organised by the MPS - 2018
- The Landscape Masterclass – Organised by MIPP (with Keith Ellul) in 2019

Last year he decided to enrol for an online Advanced Diploma in Photography with the Institute of Photography (IOP) in the UK. In the same year he joined MPP. When I asked him why he joined the MIPP, he said that “I wanted to experience different aspects of photography through the courses, talks and lectures that are organised by the MIPP.”

Leonard enjoys several genres of photography including People, Street, Architecture, Landscapes, Events and Sports. However, his favourite genre is Dance Photography.

IMPORTANT LESSONS LEARNT AND ROLE MODELS

Leonard mentions four important lessons that he always keeps in mind:

1. Always strive to capture a different viewpoint.
2. Follow the rules of composition as much as possible.
3. Plan your shots beforehand – best light and location.
4. Keep on learning.

Leonard follows a number of photographers including Thomas Heaton, Nigel Danson & Dave Marrow (Landscapes); Julia Anna Gospodarou and Joel Tjintelaar (Architecture & Long exposure); Trevor and Faye Yerbury (Fine Art Nude); Carlo De Nino (Tabletop); and Sean Tucker, Glyn Dewis. He also follows photographers on 1x.com.

THE FUTURE OF PHOTOGRAPHY FOR LEONARD

Leonard wishes to have the opportunity to attend a workshop by Trevor and Faye Yerbury.

He hopes to travel to places such as The Lake District; Highlands; Dolomites; Valencia and Iceland, not to mention London for its diverse opportunities via-a-vis architecture and street photography.

Last but not least Leonard plans to obtain an official qualification from MIPP.

FAVOURITE PHOTOS

His favourite photo to date is called Levitation. He loves the way this image was captured. The dancer’s leaping in mid-air, her expression, the position of the red drape. Great lighting and the non-distracting background with a hint of smoke really compliments the main subject



'The Salve's Look' – is an expressive portrait of one of artists taken during the Medieval Mdina. It is a favourite because firstly, it was his first attempt where he managed to change the background and giving it a rather dramatic feel.



'The Millennium Bridge' – is a street photography image taken in London during one of his visits. He wanted to get the St Paul's cathedral in the centre with the bridge acting a leading line towards the centre.



Another one of his favourites images is called 'On the Way'. Again, taken in 2019 in London. This a very simple image of a falling leaf by the pavement. It is a simple minimalistic photo with two striking red transversal lines on the black tarmac, with the green of the leaf which compliments the red colour. The position of the leaf on the top left makes the image more powerful in his opinion.



All four images were successful in local exhibitions.

DONATION OF IMAGES TO MATER DEI HOSPITAL

We felt it was time to give a bit to our community, particularly our frontline workers and people who need to go to the hospital for one reason or another. For this reason, we gave a new set of Fine Art photographic framed enlargements in order to enhance the hospital's corridors. The project involved the cooperation of various contributors and sponsors but finally, we managed to complete this in time for the photographs to be put up just before Christmas.

We would like to thank Bank of Valletta; IlabPhoto; Deco; Mater Dei Hospital and also member Leon Caruana for being instrumental in achieving the BOV sponsorship. I also wish to thank all the members who submitted work for selection. The response was overwhelming but due to financial constraints we had to limit the number of prints that were made to 21. The choice of the final images took into account image quality, subject and the power of the images to engage viewers.

These are the photographers whose work was chosen and now graces the hospital's corridors: Duncan Cauchi; Charles Calleja; Viorica Naudi; Joseph Francalanza; Earl Mallia Duca; Keith Ellul; Sergio Morana; Guido Bonett; Keith Galea; Charles Mifsud; Martin Agius; Richard Farrugia; Samuel Scicluna; Stefan Cachia; Alexander Cutajar; Yasmin Dingli; Tom Lee; Leonard Cocks; Kevin Casha.



Photography by DAVID VINCENZI



Photography by LUCIENNE ATZARD



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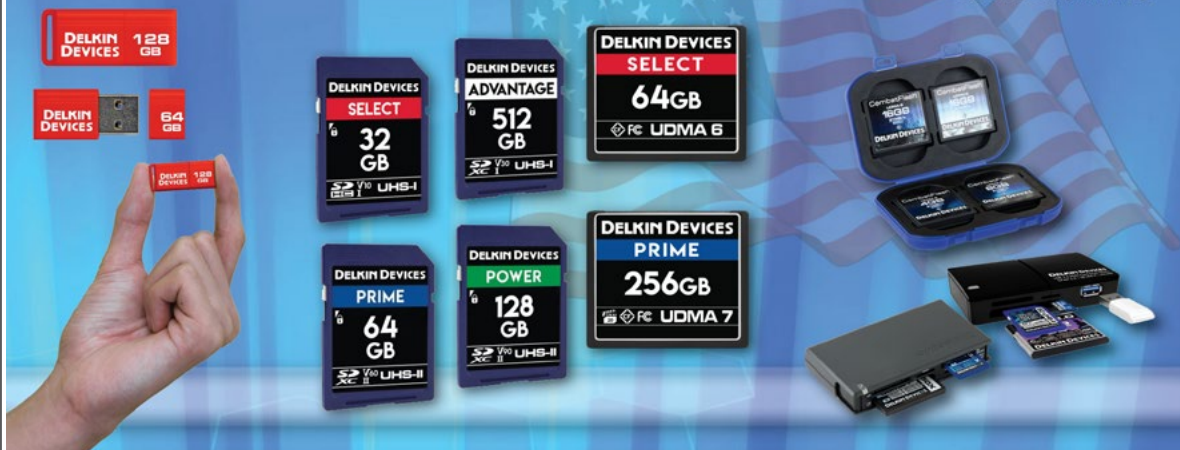
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JANUARY /2021

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MIPP MEMBERS' INTERVIEW ERIK JOHANSEN

Tuesday 12th JANUARY | 19:00

February /2021

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MIPP MEMBERS' ALIVE & WELL: THE PORTRAITURE OF AMANDA HSU

Tuesday 2nd February | 19:00

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MIPP MEMBERS' PHOTO ADVENTURE CREATIVE FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY BY COLIN HARRISON

[HTTPS://WWW.COLINHARRISONPHOTOGRAPHY.UK/](https://www.colinharrisonphotography.uk/)

Tuesday 19th JANUARY | 19:00

February /2021

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MIPP MEMBERS' TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE - WORKING TOWARDS MIPP QUALIFICATIONS.

Tuesday 9th February | 19:00

JANUARY /2021

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Tuesday 26th JANUARY | 19:00

February /2021

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MIPP MEMBERS' JOIN US FOR THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF IN-DEPTH MOVIE REVIEWS BASED ON THEIR PHOTOGRAPHY. BY MARK ANTHONY BUGEJA

Tuesday 16th February | 19:00



CALENDAR

JANUARY | FEBRUARY



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Wednesday 24th February: MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING

CROYDON IMAGE CHALLENGE 2

(THIS ONLINE MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO MIPP MEMBERS ONLY AND WILL BE DONE ON ZOOM.

A LINK WILL BE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE SESSION).

20.00 MALTA TIME; ZOOM

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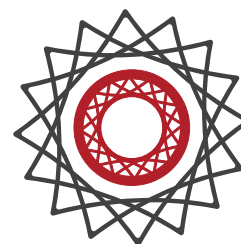
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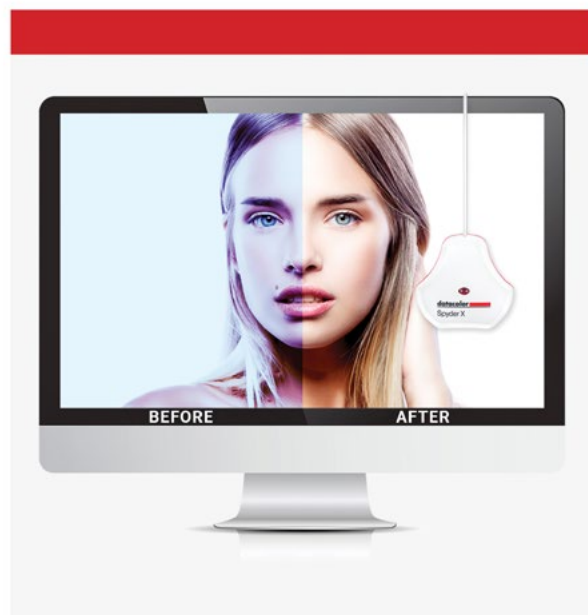
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THE MIPP SPONSORS

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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) 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.




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