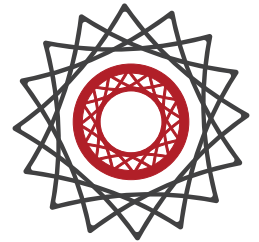


# FOCAL POINT



THE MALTA INSTITUTE  
OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY



**ISSUE 97**

The Official  
MIPP Newsletter

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

2021  
NOV/DEC



## PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

Dear Members,

The end of 2021 is approaching fast, and with it, the festive times of Christmas and New Year's celebrations. 2021 was a momentous year, with photographers and MIPP finally being able to resurrect from the woes of the pandemic like focused phoenixes, and now that meeting physically is possible again, a critical component of photography associations and clubs is now back on the books, namely being able to meet, socialize, discuss equipment choices, techniques and get inspiration from your fellow members.

2021 saw the reinstatement of popular activities for MIPP, namely photo-walks, workshops, weekly talks at the MIPP premises, post-processing workshops, competitions and exhibits. It is very encouraging to see many members join in, eager to contribute and enjoy socializing with fellow photographers, both aspiring pros and working pros, working hand in hand to improve each other and advance the status of Maltese photography. It is also encouraging to see a massive influx of new members, people who never felt the need to be part of a photographic association before, but who now felt the urge that MIPP is best suited to help them raise the quality of their photography, as MIPP is best positioned as the learning institution for photography in Malta.

We at MIPP never rest on our laurels, and we are hard at work to make 2022, our 25th anniversary year celebration, to make it one of the best ones yet. A huge plenary convention is slotted for November 2022, with a roster of major international speakers the likes of which Malta has never seen before, at a dream venue for a photographic convention, coupled with several hands on workshops with these foreign speakers. The topics are various, covering everything from fashion, portraiture to architecture, fine art and street photography.



We have a packed issue for you, with plenty of interesting information, including several upcoming publications by our members, as well as an interview with Joseph P. Smith, who has been active in the photographic field since the 1980s, always re-inventing himself and maintaining a fresh and grounded output in keeping with the times.

Let me take this occasion to wish all our members a merry, happy and bountiful Christmas, as well as a fresh New Year filled with photographic opportunities.

Dr Charles Paul Azzopardi  
President MIPP

**Editor:**  
*Charles Paul Azzopardi*

**Design:**  
*Sita Azzopardi*

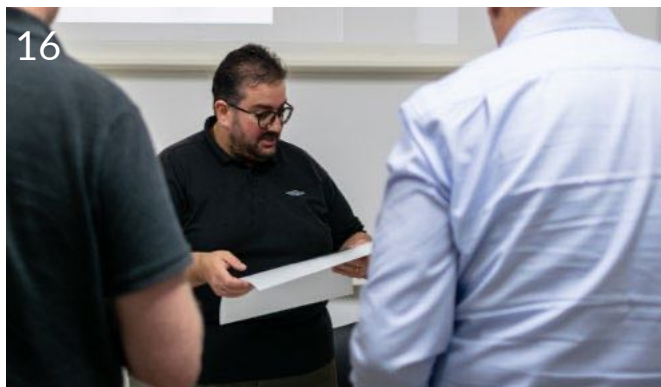
**Articles:**  
*Various contributors*

**Proof Reading:**  
*Charles Paul Azzopardi*

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

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## LET US 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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## AWARD OF RECOGNITION

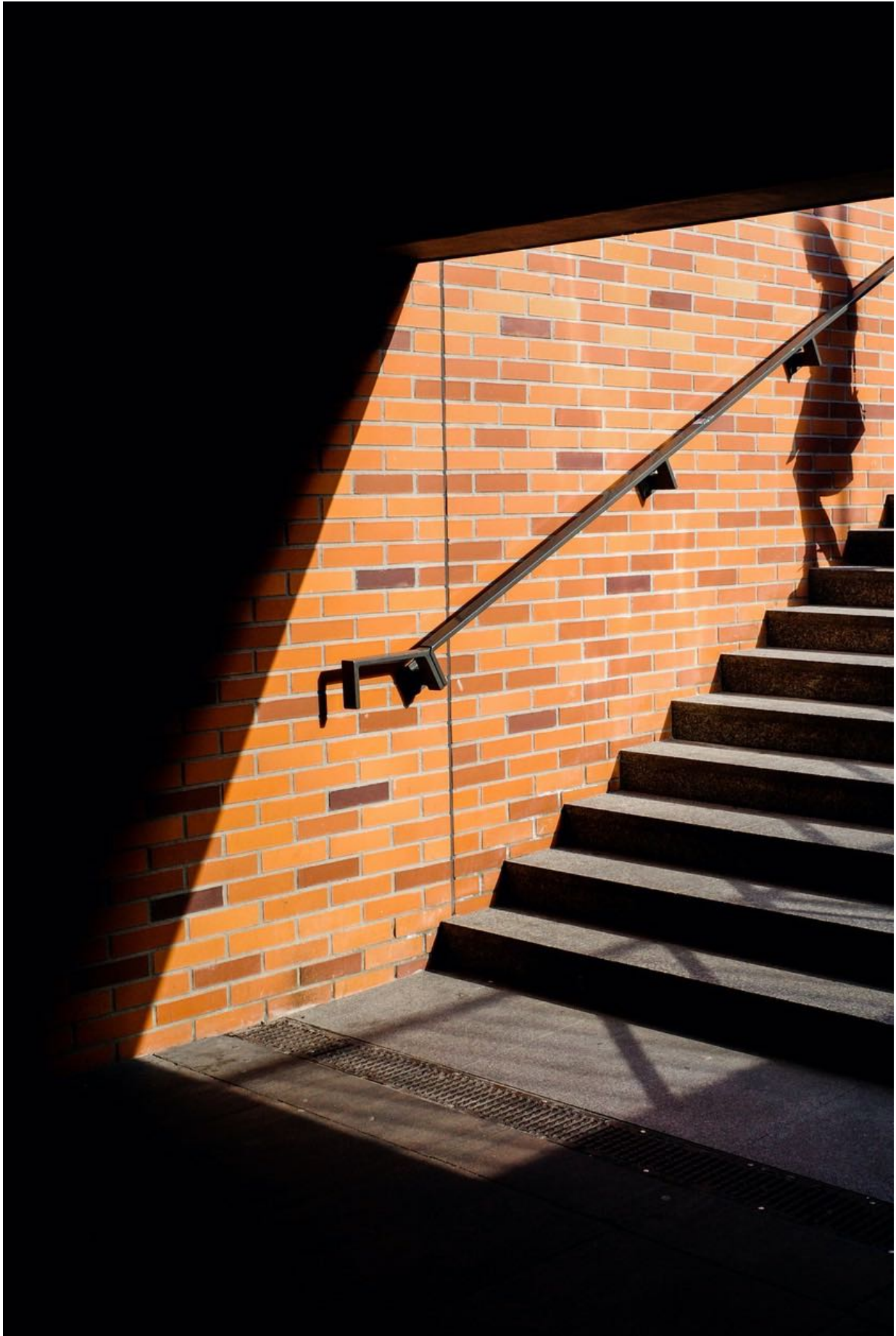
The Malta Institute of Photography is proud to announce that it has awarded its Award of Recognition for sterling service to Maltese Photography to Ian Ellis, archivist and CEO of the Richard Ellis Archive, one of the most valuable archives of photographic cultural heritage in Malta. Ian took over the management of the archive in 1993 and managed to save the archive from destruction and publicize it via publications and lectures, such as the one he recently gave to MIPP members. Ian fully deserves recognition for this extremely important endeavour for Maltese photography and he has our appreciation and that of the whole true Maltese photography scene.



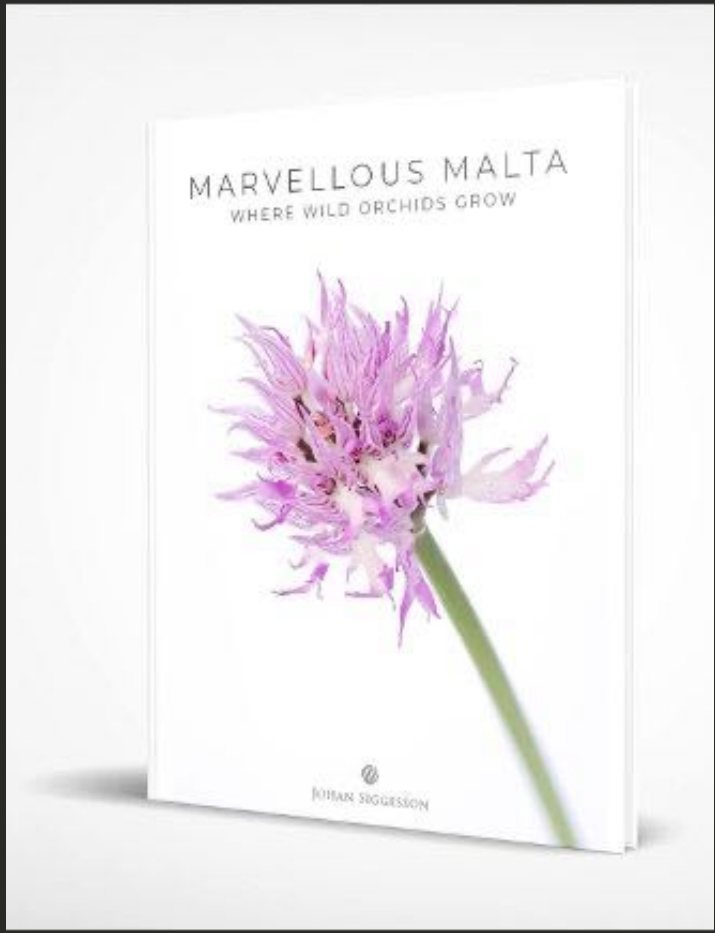
## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our president Charles Paul Azzopardi, has been recently appointed as the Global Brand Ambassador by Fuji Japan, for their prestigious Fuji X Ambassador programme. This was a result of his use of the Fuji GFX system for the highest quality digitization of cultural heritage. We take this occasion to congratulate Dr Azzopardi for this remarkable achievement, a momentous one, as no other Maltese photographer has ever been recognized by a major international photographic manufacturer for his photographic output with international renown. A small achievement for the photographer but an even bigger achievement for Maltese photography and for MIPP.









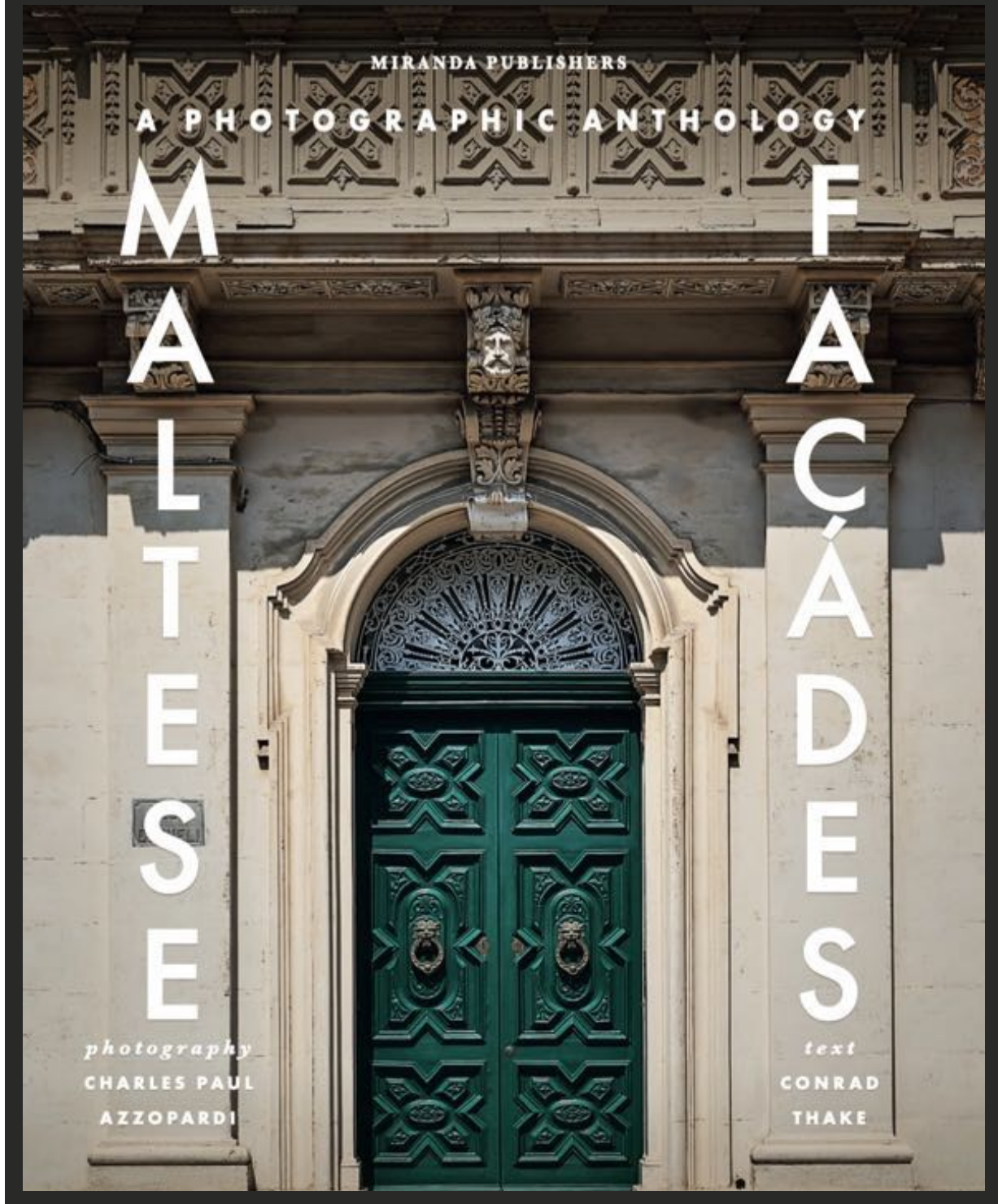
**MARVELLOUS  
MALTA WHERE WILD  
ORCHIDS GROW BY  
JOHAN SIGGESSON**

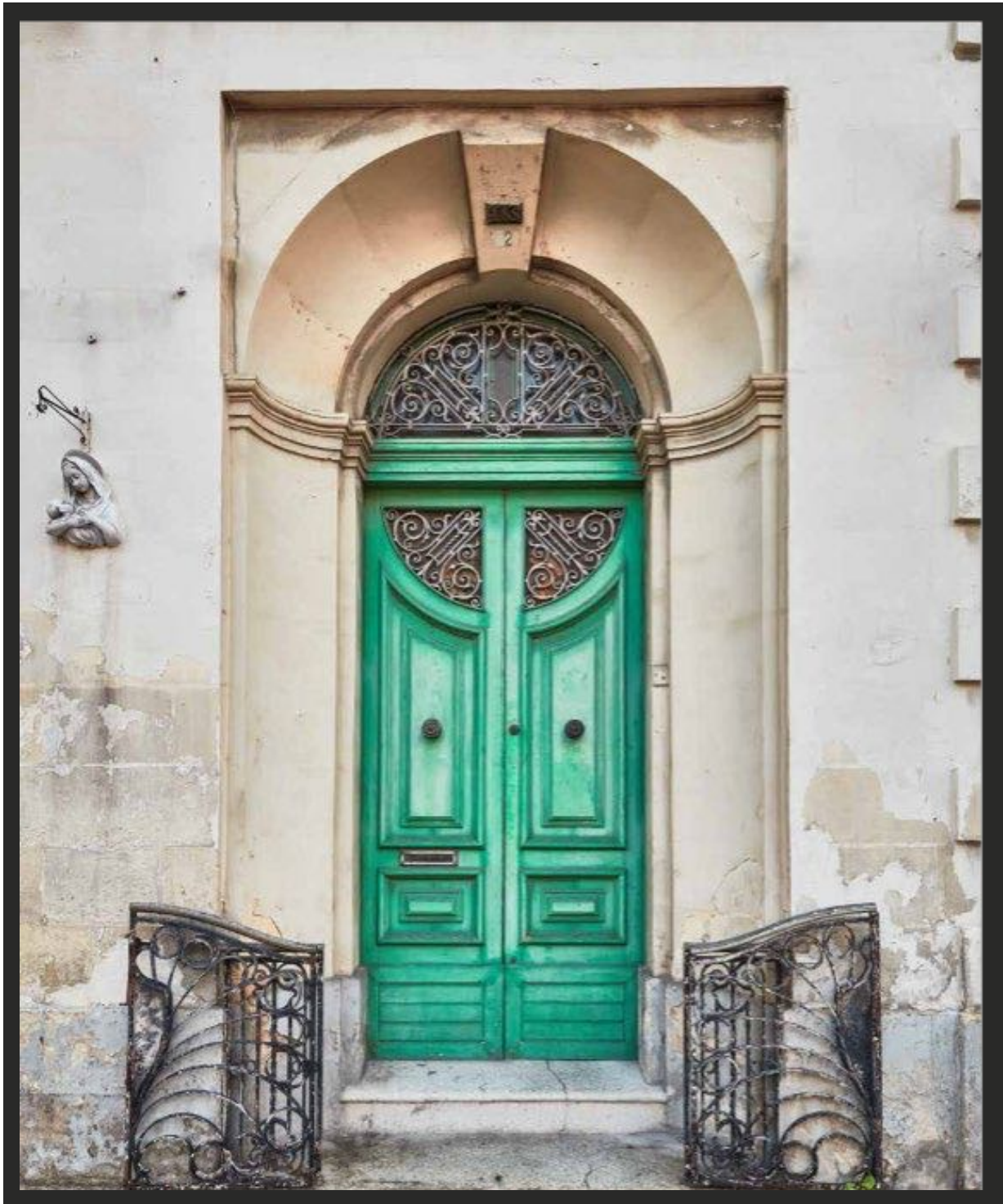
The first in a book series by Johan Siggesson documenting aspects of Maltese wildlife which are frequently ignored, Where Wild Orchids grow is going to be launched at the upcoming National Book Fair between 3 and 7th November 2021 at the MFCC in Ta' Qali.



## MALTESE FACADES - A PHOTOGRAPHIC ANTHOLOGY

The 35th book published incorporating Charles Paul Azzopardi's photography, this book covers 10 years of Azzopardi's documenting of all elements of Maltese vernacular architecture, including doorways, facades, shrines and balconies. Considered the magnum opus of Maltese architectural photography, this book is due to be released by Miranda Publishers end of November 2021, with an innovative cover design and 300 pages packed with colour images.





With the start of a new season in September, we saw the resumption of all MIPP activities, including workshops, photo walks and courses. Photo walks will continue to be held monthly guided by Sergio Morana, and we also have Beginner courses, Photo Essentials Workshops and Advanced Photoshop tutorials ongoing over the next months

## **MIPP PHOTO WALK**

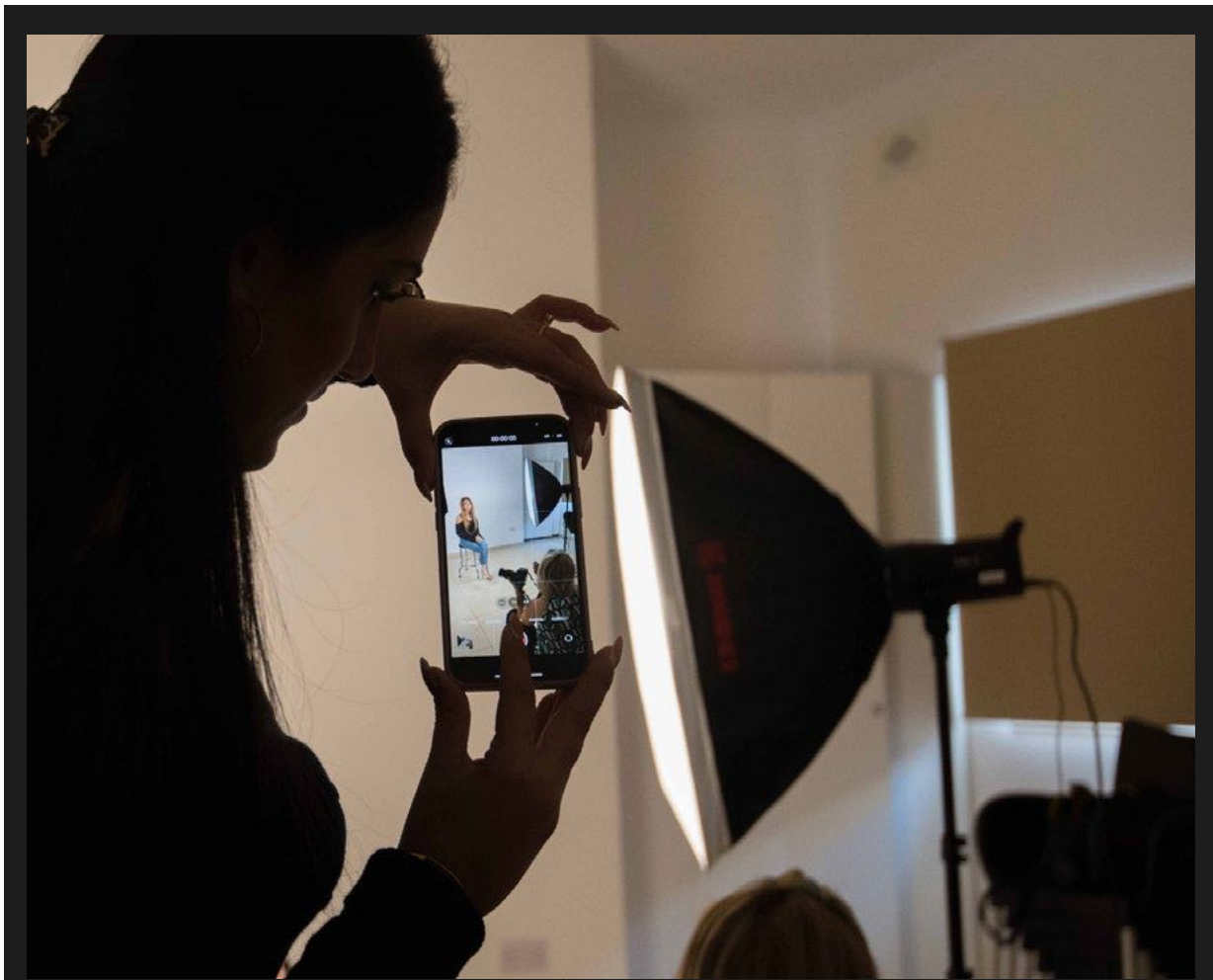
The slight lowering of temperature in the air, and the couple of good showers of rain reminds us that Autumn is close by. This means that MIPP shall start once again organising photo walks for its members. These walks will provide us with the opportunity to meet once again while having the chance of exploring some photogenic locations together. During these walks, members will enjoy sharing with one another their passion on whatever is related to photography.

The first of location chosen for such walks shall be the historic city of Senglea - known also as L-Isla, or else, Citta Invicta. The visit shall take place in the morning hours of Sunday 10th of October. The group shall meet at 9 am at 'il-Maċina' (the lower entrance of Senglea, close by the sea). We will then proceed to walk, talk and photo shoot our way along the waterfront and later head towards the higher grounds of the town to explore different views.

**NEXT PHOTOWALK DUE ON 14TH NOVEMBER,  
starting at 9 am near Peridot, Haz Zebbug - led by Sergio Morana.**

















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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

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## JOSEPH P. SMITH

*By Dr Charles Paul Azzopardi*

Joseph P Smith, or Joe Smith as he is better known, is 62 years old, married to Charlotte, and has one son, William, a prodigious jazz musician and artist in his own right. Joe is now retired, having retired 3 years ago, giving him more time to enjoy photography, the graphic arts, swimming and reading.

Joe Smith comes from a fine art background, having studied painting and graphic design locally in Malta and in Florence, Italy. In fact, his first two exhibitions locally consisted of semi-abstract paintings and ink washes, and were held at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta in 1980 and 1982, respectively. Joe's journey in photography actually started a couple of years before his first artistic exhibitions, in 1979. He deems it as a natural progression of his innate artistic tendency and his drive to explore this medium in parallel with his painterly endeavours. Having had a lifelong ache to buy a camera, brought on by a recurrent Nikon camera advert in Reader's Digest which he used to read in his childhood, he first bought a Zenit EM, but it was promptly superseded

during a trip to visit family in Canada in 1979, when he bought his first proper camera, a Nikon FM. Spending six weeks photographing in Canada proved to be a start of a love of photography which continues to this day.

Upon his return to Malta, he invested in a couple of introductory courses which continued fuelling his affinity for the medium, while also instigating him to find his own style. He also attended a large format photography workshop at the Royal Photographic Society in Bath in 1991.

His favourite genre is documentary portraiture, with environmental portraiture being his strong horse, as Joe likes to put the human condition in full evidence. He also enjoys architectural photography for its use of lines and patterns, as well as performing arts, especially jazz. His inspirations in photography are myriad, with Robert Frank being a strong





candidate – a favourite image of Joe’s is the image of Frank’s shot in London in the 1950s, seen below. Robert Frank’s documentary style imparts pathos and strong feelings towards his subjects and his definitive tome “The Americans” ranks as a classic in this genre in Joe’s eyes.



Joe Smith joined MIPP from the first days it was founded. From its inception, MIPP organised many important seminars with local and visiting practitioners, who imparted a lot of knowledge, mostly through hands-on workshops. The way Joe sees it, photography is a recording tool and it is important to think outside the box and find the road to exploration and artistic realisation.

One has to know when to break away from the act of simple recording to a more soul-searching exercise. The ease of making images can be the downfall of upcoming photographers if a deeper study of the medium is not undertaken. This is an important lesson Joe would like to impart to budding photographers.

Joe's interest in the graphic arts, particularly printing processes, is still very strong, and now with ample time on his hands, he is following a course in etching and other printing techniques. He is also actively pursuing and finalizing the release of his second book, *Survivors*.

Despite Joe winning myriad awards for his photography, including the prestigious Taylor Wessing prize at the National Portrait Gallery in London, Joe remains down to earth and always amenable to a word of advice and a helping hand.



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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.



NOVEMBER 2021

## MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING PHOTO ASSESSMENT NIGHT

2 November | 18:30 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

NOVEMBER 2021

## MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY RAMON CURMI

10<sup>th</sup> November | 18:30 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

NOVEMBER 2021

## MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING MARVELLOUS MALTA JOHAN SIGGESSON

17<sup>th</sup> November | 18:30 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

NOVEMBER 2021

## MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING QUALIFICATIONS PANEL JUDGING

23<sup>rd</sup> November | 18:30 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

NOVEMBER 2021

## MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING DEVELOPMENT OF STYLE SEAN MALLIA

30<sup>th</sup> November | 18:30 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

DECEMBER 2021

## MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS EDWARD DEGABRIELE

7<sup>th</sup> December | 18:30 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

DECEMBER 2021

## MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE DUSKA MALESEVIC

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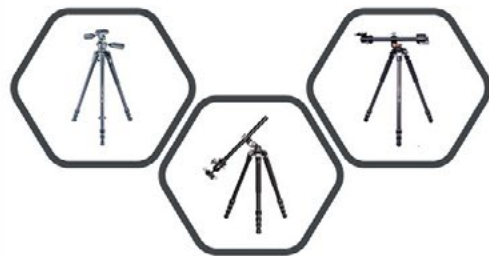
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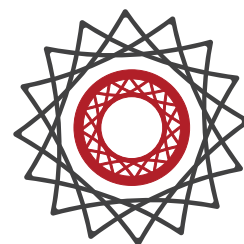
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## THE MIPP SPONSORS

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), 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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