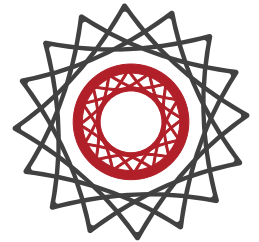


# FOCAL POINT



THE MALTA INSTITUTE  
OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

**ISSUE 96**

The Official  
MIPP Newsletter

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

2021  
SEP | OCT



## PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

Dear Members,

Allow me to share my excitement at writing this, my first address as the newly voted in president of the Malta Institute of Professional Photography. Photography is a beautiful art, which opens doors to possibilities, avenues and paths one would not have even thought of. Photography has given me a lot over the past 5 years where I have taken it seriously, and when the time arose for me to give back to photography in Malta, the choice was obvious.

Photography in Malta is changing, and so must the photography association which has had professional (and anyone aspiring to be) photography at heart for the past 25 years. It is an interesting time to be involved in MIPP and photography in Malta right now, with the 25th anniversary celebrations due next year being celebrated with a major photography convention, monthly social activities with ample novel photographic opportunities, as well as the publishing of a major book commemorating this momentous anniversary.

The MIPP listens to its user base, both its members as well as photographers who are still not within its ranks, and a recent survey commissioned amongst all photographers in Malta has helped MIPP orient itself to the current and future needs of the photographic community in Malta.

The past 25 years have seen photography in Malta evolve, with a move away from full time professional photographers shooting weddings and passport photos, veering towards part time photographers who still achieve a very high level of professional output in novel sectors of photography such as book publishing, advertising, architecture and cultural heritage. Being professional is not about a label or a title, but a mentality, an ethos and an output which speaks for itself. MIPP is the organization which helps such aspiring photographers to learn, grow and master the craft.

I would thus like to invite everyone, of any level in photography, to come join us, participate, learn, teach, socialize and get together now that we are finally turning the corner on this pandemic. We are restarting all social activities, with photo walks, cultural walks, planned shoots with models and novel opportunities never done before in Malta.



Photography by - Dr Charles Paul Azzopardi

Allow me to humbly say that I am a reasonable, approachable fellow, who loves photography in all its aspects. If anyone needs any help with technique, equipment, vision, project management, please speak up, I will be glad to help, and I am sure you will find all the assistance you need within the wide user base and executive committee at MIPP. And although I am well versed that to move forward in life and photography, you have to remember those that came before you, this is a new MIPP with new ideas.

Finally, allow me to thank the immediate outgoing President and MIPP founding member, Mr Kevin Casha. Mr Casha has been instrumental for the photography sector in Malta, and the brainchild behind every major turn and corner of the scene for the past 40 years. The photography sector in Malta owes Mr Casha major gratitude for his sterling service, and so does MIPP. We thank him and we hope he keeps contributing to Maltese photography for many years to come.

Dr Charles Paul Azzopardi  
President MIPP

**Editor:**  
Charles Paul Azzopardi

**Design:**  
Sita Azzopardi

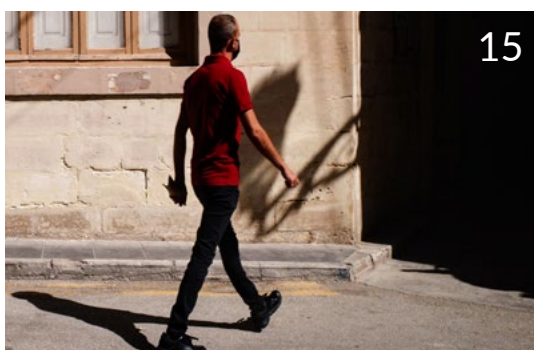
**Articles:**  
Various contributors

**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'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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## THE MALTA IMAGE PRESERVATION ARCHIVE (MIPA):

Old archival photographic images of Malta & Gozo are highly appreciated and sought after by collectors and the general public, but the conservation and preservation of negatives and prints by the public and private collection owners unfortunately has lagged behind the pace of this genuine and all-encompassing interest. Photographic negatives from the start of photography in the 1840s to 2000, with the advent of digital overshadowing the old film negatives, remain a vital and irreplaceable component of the tangible cultural heritage

of the Maltese Islands. They need to be preserved for posterity and research, in the face of already ongoing destruction and disposal of under-appreciated photographic negatives and equipment.

Cultural heritage imaging is rooted in the idea of conserving & preserving the past for the future. The need for the digitization of historic photographic collections in museums & private entities is rapidly growing, with an increasing focus on public access, research and preservation of information for the future. Institutions with valuable collections often have a dedicated photographic studio for creating photographs of sensitive material, or for producing paper copies for researchers and scholars, protecting the original objects from wear and damage through repeated handling or exposure to elements.. Preserving the past for the future is often a race against time, as much of the material has a limited lifespan before it is gone forever; solutions that enable rapid capture are not only necessary but often crucial due to ongoing deterioration of originals.



The scope of cultural heritage digitization is to create a Preservation Digital Object (PDO), which can, for all intents and purposes, be used instead of the actual object needing to be handled. This necessitates that whenever a photographic negative or print is imaged, it must be reproduced to highly exacting and the strictest preservation grade standards.

Thus, the Malta Image Preservation Archive (MIPA) was founded in 2021 by two MIPP members, current president Charles Paul Azzopardi and immediate past president Kevin Casha to fulfil this need, with the following aims:

1. Physically conserve, restore and preserve all photographic collections and photographic equipment pertaining to Malta & Gozo in a safe controlled environment to avoid any further damage by humidity, temperature, improper handling, light exposure and pests.
2. Digitize all photographic collections to the strictest cultural heritage preservation standards. MIPA is the only FADGI , METAMORFOZE and ISO 19264 compliant cultural heritage digitization hub in Malta, using the most sophisticated and state of the art digitization equipment available, on a par with professional photographic cultural heritage preservation institutions and museums worldwide.
3. Ensure access of all digitized material in an online catalogue raisonne, so that the photographic material is publicly searchable and available for research purposes, both by collection and keywords. MIPA has already been entrusted with the digitization and management of over 150,000 glass and film negatives, together with a veritable cornucopia of old camera equipment. This will form the basis of the National Photography Collection, which is being built up pending a permanent place for its display and storage.



MIPA has already been entrusted with the digitization and management of over 150,000 glass and film negatives, together with a veritable cornucopia of old camera equipment. This will form the basis of the National Photography Collection, which is being built up pending a permanent place for its display and storage.

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We thus ask our members and public to inform us of any photographic negative material, prints or old equipment which needs to be saved and preserved to contact us on [info@mipa.com.mt](mailto:info@mipa.com.mt) or on 99898015.



Photography by David Wrightson - Auberge d'Italie - October 1964





Photography by Richard England - Msida







THE MALTA INSTITUTE  
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DISTINCTIONS AND AWARDS

---

# QUALIFICATIONS

---

THE DEADLINE FOR MENTORING

submissions is the

**19th October**

of each year prior to the

Qualification judging month of November



THEMED PANEL  
OF 20 WORKS



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MEDIA  
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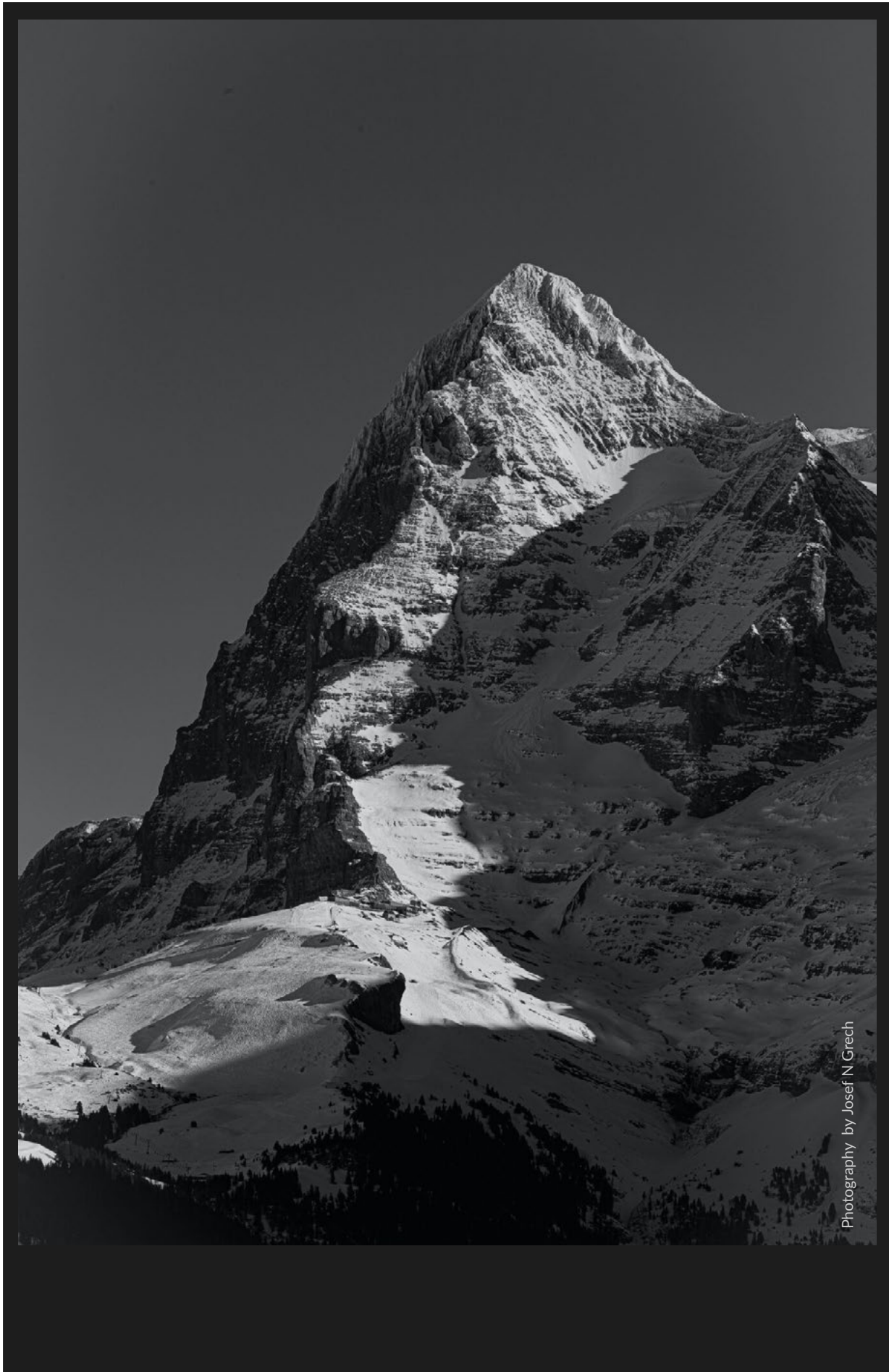


Photography by Josef N Grech

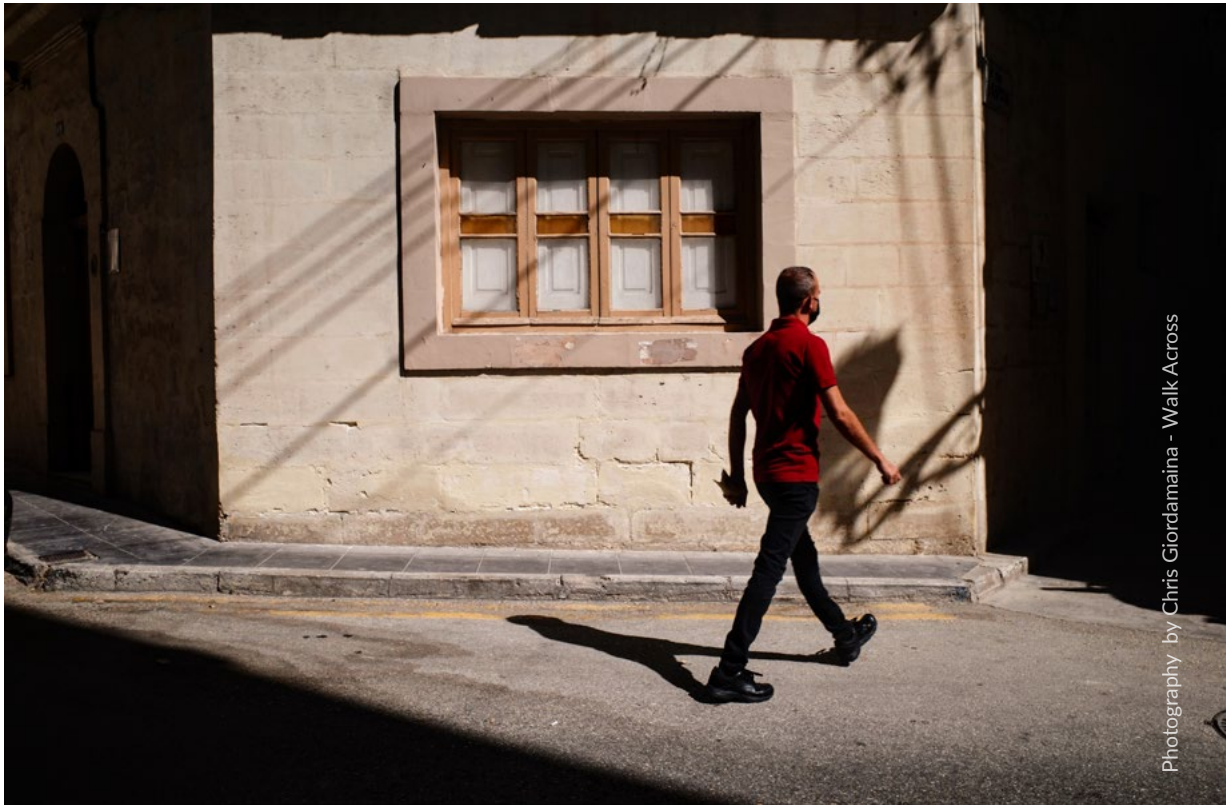


Photography by Josef N Grech





Photography by Josef N Grech



Photography by Chris Giordamaina - Walk Across



Photography by Chris Giordamaina - Nun

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](mailto:courses@mipp-malta.com)



## JOHANN DEBONO

*By Dr Charles Paul Azzopardi*

Johann Debono is 40 years old, married to Diahann, an Italian language teacher. Born and living in Hamrun, he works as a senior technician in the quality control department of a major local semi-conductor company.

Johann admits that his interest in photography is lifelong, having been exposed to it from a young age. As a youth, he used to borrow his parents' camera to experiment with and shoot a multitude of subjects which caught his eye. Throughout his life, this interest persisted as there was always someone or something which renewed this interest for photography.

He finally took the plunge and bought his first SLR camera, a second hand Olympus OM-10 and two lenses, while still at school. This served its purpose well, as he primarily used it to shoot military airplanes landing in Malta; compared to nowadays, the trepidation of not knowing what was captured on the analogue film and waiting till it was developed proved to be intimidating, also taking into consideration the cost to develop the film. So, when digital photography appeared on the scene, the move to digital was an obvious move and Johann moved to digital.



**Wrapped in Silk:** The Agriope spider is wrapping a wasp in the web. As you can see, parts of the web where the spider is standing on is almost invisible since no light is being reflected and thus that is why it is a good hunting weapon and, in most cases, very effective



Although he considers himself an all-rounder, his favourite genres include portraiture, experimental composites, as well as nature & wildlife photography. His inspirations in photography are myriad, including Steve McCurry, Karl Taylor and Erik Johansson, but also local artists, such as Guido Bonett, for his nature and wildlife photography.

Johann first joined the Malta Photographic Society in 2007, followed by the Malta Institute of Professional Photography in 2013, and he agrees that joining the societies proved essential in improving his photographic output, as they provide an opportunity to meet with like-minded photographers. Discussing various photography related topics and sharing experiences and ideas with society members, as well as receiving feedback on the material produced from veterans and competition submissions alike, proved to be invaluable for continuing growth. Looking back on his output, he admits that his initial competition submissions were not as successful as he wished they would be, but the constant learning from the MIPP and MPS led to Johann exhibiting his work in 48 different countries and being awarded local and international awards.

Johann currently is the holder of five distinctions in photography, as well as a Diploma in Photography from a UK institution. He was also the editor of the "Click" news zine of the MPS between 2012 and 2014.



**Copulation:** The photo was shot while on a trip to Bulgaria with a Nature photography colleague.

The Bee-Eaters have an amazing courtship, and mating strategy not worth missing.



**Hera:** Here the model, Lyona, was dressed with a custom made outfit and headpiece made by myself. A studio light with a large softbox was placed on the model's right side and a hint of backlight was used with a red gel.

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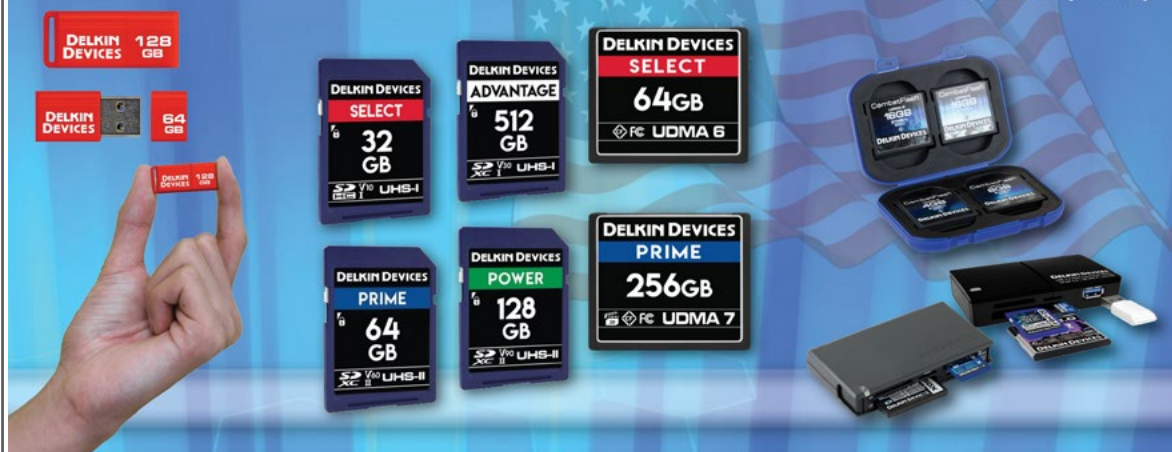
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# CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER



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



SEPTEMBER 2021

### MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING MEET THE COMMITTEE & MEMBERS

7<sup>th</sup> September | 18:00 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

SEPTEMBER 2021

### MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING PLATINUM PALLADIUM PRINTING BY KENT WISNER

14<sup>th</sup> September | 18:00 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

SEPTEMBER 2021

### MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING INDEPENDENCE DAY NO MEETING

21<sup>st</sup> September | 18:00 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

SEPTEMBER 2021

### MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING MEDIUM FORMAT - IS IT FOR YOU BY CHARLES PAUL AZZOPARDI

28<sup>th</sup> September | 18:00 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

OCTOBER 2021

### MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING WAR, CELEBS & PORN BY RENE ROSSIGNAUD

5<sup>th</sup> October | 18:00 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

OCTOBER 2021

### MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING THE RICHARD ELLIS ARCHIVE BY IAN ELLIS

12<sup>th</sup> October | 18:00 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

OCTOBER 2021

### MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING AUTOMOTIVE PHOTOGRAPHY BY GIANLUCA AGIUS

19<sup>th</sup> October | 18:00 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola

OCTOBER 2021

### MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING PRINTING YOUR IMAGES BY RAMON SAMMUT

26<sup>th</sup> October | 18:00 | 76, MIPP, Britannia Street, Paola



### WORKSHOP

ALTERNATIVE PROCESSES | BY TOM LEE

Saturday

16<sup>th</sup> October | 9:00am



THE MALTA  
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short courses  
&  
workshop

## MIPP PHOTOESSENTIALS WORKSHOPS 2021:

CONNECTION



KNOWLEDGE



DEVELOPMENT



Members: 50; Non-Members: 70;

Bookings on :courses@mipp-malta.com;

Deadline: 30 th August.

Saturday 9th October - (09.00 - 12.00)

**FLASH ON CAMERA**  
with Charles Calleja

Wednesday 13th October - (09.00 -12.00)

**POSING**  
with Kevin Casha

Thursday 21st October

**LONG EXPOSURE PHOTOGRAPHY**  
with Earl Mallia

Saturday 23rd October - (09.00 -12.00)

**STUDIO PORTRAITURE**

Saturday 30th October - (08.30 to 12.00)

**NATURE PRACTICAL**  
with Guido Bonett

(venues and meeting places to be announced)

(all students must be fully vaccinated and  
wear a mask. social distancing will be maintained.)

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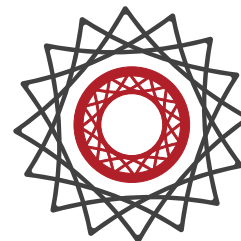
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MEMBER MEETINGS START  
AT 6Z.00PM





## NOTICE:



### MEMBERS' EMAIL UPDATES:

**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.**



## The Societies of Photographers

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One may pay by either sending in a cheque to: 76, MIPP, TRIQ BRITTANJA, PAOLA, PLA 1426 - Malta, together with the relative membership fee. (Cheques are to be made payable to 'The Treasurer, MIPP')

OR



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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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## CONTACTS

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**2021 SEP/OCT**