Lifestyle & Culture

Conference on Josef Kalleya's art and the visual dialogues: Peripheral Alternatives to Rodin in Modern European Sculpture

The Department of History of Art, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta is organising the international conference Peripheral Alternatives to Rodin in Modern European Sculpture: with particular emphasis on Josef Kalleya's art and the visual dialogues of an island scene, on Tuesday, 15 December.

This conference aims to bring together international scholars and researchers to discuss and debate the role sculpture was playing in the formulation of a new artistic language and to also analyse the various idiomatic alternatives to Rodin co-existing during the first decades of the 20th century and beyond. The French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) is widely considered as the forbearer of modern sculpture, whose pervasive influence proclaimed him as the authority of sculptural art.

The objective is to create a trans-cultural scholarly relationship between the work of European sculptors and other relevant artists. It endeavours to question and debate the artistic hegemonic relationship between Rodin and other sculptors. The conference is to further analyse the works of those pioneering sculptors who directed art towards original modes of representation within their respective socio-political situation and the international context.

Participants include Dr Sophie Biass-Fabiani (Musée Rodin, Paris), Dr Julia Kelly (Loughborough University), Professor Joseph Paul Cassar (University of Maryland University College), Dr Jon Wood (Henry Moore Institute, Leeds), Ulrich Meinherz (Kesselhaus Josephsohn, St Gallen), Dr Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci (University of Malta) and Barbara Vujanović (Atelijer Meštrović, Zagreb).

The conference is being organised in collaboration with the Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale and the Valletta2018 Foundation.

For further information and to register for the conference visit www.um.edu.mt/events/parmes2015

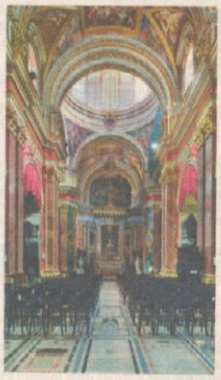
Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale hosts two international concerts

The Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale, which is currently being held in different prestigious venues in the old capital, is hosting two concerts in collaboration with Caravan.

Caravan is a trans-cultural initiative which organises a multitude of arts events with the intention of creating peaceful dialogue between diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. Caravan will be coordinating a number of projects for the Mdina Biennale, including the Maltese Donkey sculptural installation and a series of concerts.

On 4 December, always as part of the Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Biennale, Caravan, in collaboration with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, will perform a concert offering the audience a stimulating and challenging opportunity to contemplate fundamental eternal questions of existence, faith, harmony and peace through the ethereal acoustic experience of outstanding musicianship. The concert will be held at the Mdina Cathedral at 8pm.

Notes of Faith is a musical concert of original compositions by four contemporary composers. The concert was organised after an initial discussion between Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, president of Caravan and the Mdina Biennale artistic director Dr Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci about hosting a musical performance that ties Middle Eastern and Western traditions together in such a way as to further explore the theme of the Biennale, Christianity, Spirituality and the Other.



In today's fast-paced world of stereotypes and media hype, music, with its emotive and transformative nature, serves as a valuable vehicle to change misconceptions and engender understanding and harmony. With this in mind, Rev. Chandler, together with Brian Schembri, principal conductor of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, shaped the Notes of Faith concert around award-winning Jewish composer Doron Kima's *Seeds of Hope* composition. *Seeds of Hope* is an East-West composition for oud (Middle Eastern lute), nay (Middle Eastern reed flute) and Western symphony orchestra. It is a fusion of two different musical traditions, Western classical and Arabic music, into a single cohesive work.

Composer Doron Kima refers to himself as coming from a "mixed background" as while Jewish, he came from Iraq and only later in life did his family move to Israel. Growing up in this "Jewish-Arabic" context formed the basis of his *Seeds of Hope* composition. Doron Kima's love for Arabic music led to his vision to compose for orchestra and Arabic musical theory, including Arabic instruments, with the objective of fostering collaboration between Jews, Muslims and Christians.

With Raoul Lay as conductor, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra agreed to perform the world premiere of *Seeds of Hope* as they resonated with the humanitarian, peace-building nature of the work and the critical need at this time to build bridges between the Middle East and West. Solo Middle Eastern artists for *Seeds of Hope* are the renowned musicians, Nizar Al Issa, oud and Bashir Abdel Aal, nay.

In addition to *Seeds of Hope* by Doron Kima, the Notes of Faith concert will also feature three other contemporary composers: Albert Pace: *In Amore illo ardeas*, Cristina Vilallonga: *Aspiratio* and Karl Fiorini: *Rêves Obscurs*.

Together, these four compositions result in Notes of Faith becoming a musical contemplation of the fundamental eternal questions of existence, faith, harmony and peace.

Admission for both concerts at the Mdina Cathedral is free.

Final day for Masquerade's 'The Last Five Years'

Rachel Fabri and Joseph Zammit star in the local production of Jason Robert Brown's award-winning musical *The Last Five Years*. Featuring a six-piece live band, the staging of *The Last Five Years* is the last appointment on the Masquerade Theatre Company's calendar of events for 2015. Today's show is the last show after rave reviews.

KTM Malta representative attends training in Austria

KTM Malta representative, William Attard McCarthy successfully attended the KTM Dealer Training at the company's headquarters in Mattighofen, Austria.

The intensive training course was spread over two days and it focused on the dealer system, which is in use by all KTM dealers worldwide. The course covered the functionality and usability of the new upgraded system that makes it easier and faster for dealers and the factory to communicate efficiently resulting in better services to customers. This was also a good opportunity for KTM Malta staff to meet with the country regional managers and strengthen the already existing good relationship while networking with other KTM dealers.

This year, KTM has been very busy extending its Street range by introducing new models including the KTM 1290 Super Duke GT, KTM 1290 Super Duke R Special Edition, KTM 690 Duke and KTM 690 Duke R.

KTM is the largest European motorcycle manufacturer and is the global market leader in Ready to Race – on and off road motorcycles.

For more information phone on 2339 3000, visit the showroom at FAPI Motors Ltd, Mdina Road, Attard or send an email on: info@fapimotors.com