

# Participation in the Day of the Mediterranean

OVER the past few years, Prof. Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci, as head of the Modern and Contemporary Art section within the Art and Art History Department at the University of Malta, has been gathering data and developing analytical research on the evolution of modern art within the Mediterranean area, amongst other parallel topics.

For Schembri Bonaci, the Mediterranean must be addressed as both an area composed of several states bordering on the mythical sea and as a geo-political region. The academic research and artistic praxis of this area is being studied holistically, exploring the richness and enchantment of each site, from entire countries to hubs within state, islands, powers, littoral ports, fortresses, and geo-points.

The research evolved into a fully-fledged project titled 'Chang-

ing Gear' which succeeded in attracting the interest of various important institutions and foundations within the Mediterranean. Earlier this year the official website was launched – [changinggearmed.com](http://changinggearmed.com) – and has already grown into a fascinating platform for discussion, debate, and exchange. Collaborations have been established with the Union for the Mediterranean as well as with various Mediterranean embassies.

The Union for the Mediterranean will be celebrating the Day of the Mediterranean on 28th November 2022, and Changing Gear is contributing to the Day's calendar of events with a series of lecture and discussions. The modest participation in this year's Day of the Mediterranean will be expanded upon in 2023 with two initiatives being organised by Department's Modern and Contemporary Art



section. A conference centring on Mediterranean modern art will be held on 28th November 2023 and will form part of the next edition of the APS Mдина Contemporary Art Biennale, bearing the theme 'Mediterranean Goddesses' (13th November 2023).

The Changing Gear project

is headed by Schembri Bonaci, with Dr Nikki Petroni as the research project manager, and the assistance of a multitalented group of the Department's graduates and current postgraduate and undergraduate students. The project also includes an academic council offering ideas, advice, and exchange which

is composed of Prof. Rosanna Ruscio (Accademia di Belle Arti di Milano), Prof. Ilia Galan (Universidade Carlos III de Madrid), and Prof. Paul Sant Cassia (University of Malta).

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## The ŽiguŽajg Arts Festival for children and young people 2022

THE 18th to the 27th of November marks the return of the ŽiguŽajg Arts Festival for Children and Young People 2022, offering a jam-packed program filled with art, dance and theatre that is ready to be enjoyed by the entire family both in live and digital forms.

For the first time in two years, the festival is in collaboration with not only local artists and creatives, but also international ones. In return, the festival has curated a hybrid program consisting of events that can be accessed and enjoyed both live and digitally.

Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Owen Bonnici, highlighted how important such a festival is in giving children and younger people a chance to voice and express their thoughts. He stated that this festival will teach them

Fondazzjoni Kreattività Chairman Rupert Cefai, also agreed by claiming that "the how to communicate in several special ways through the art of dance, drama,

and music. For children and young people to develop, create, think, and play, they require imagination. Theatre is the best platform to precisely do this and discover the limitless potential of their imaginations and abilities."

Served both as a great source of entertainment but most importantly, as a source of enlightenment to audiences of various ages." Moreover, this is why the digital school program was pushed forward even further as it "has proven to be increasingly convenient for numerous schools and students to connect and join in on the fun without having to pay any additional charges." Due to this, more and more children continue to engage with the arts and benefit

festival has from them throughout their daily lives. Festival Director Marta Vella said that, "for the first time since my appointment back in 2020, we are able to present the festival we have been dreaming of. I couldn't be prouder to present this year's



programme built around what ŽiguŽajg is known for; artistic excellence, imagination, and creativity." From having two

original musicals as well as new writing in Maltese, this year's festival is bound to be a success. Additionally, in constantly striving to improve this festival, she was also thrilled to announce that "for the first time ever, ŽiguŽajg is curating the shows at the Malta Book Festival, happening at MFCC Ta' Qali between 23-27 November.

ŽiguŽajg Arts Festival for Children and Young People 2022 will take place between the 18th and 27th of November. For more information or to book your tickets visit [www.ziguzajg.org](http://www.ziguzajg.org) today.