

Exhibition by Gozitan Artist Mark Sagona

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Young Gozitan Artist Mark Sagona, who also lectures at the University Gozo Centre, has recently put up his second personal exhibition of paintings. The exhibition, entitled 'Recent Insights'

was held at the Banca Giuratale in Victoria, Gozo between the 24th January and the 8th February 2004. It brought together twenty-four paintings, all produced in 2003 and the majority of which were realised in oil on canvas. The exhibition was curated by Dr Joseph Paul Cassar, and inaugurated by the Minister for Gozo, the Hon. Giovanna Debono.

A full-colour exhibition catalogue was published for the occasion, containing a critical study by Dr Joseph Paul Cassar. Although the exhibition deals with landscape, Sagona uses this theme in a new and unusual way. The local or foreign experience offers the artist the initial idea, which is then filtered, elaborated and reinvented through the emphasis of colour and form. The use of strong chromatic values makes the paintings vibrate and the effects of light are enhanced through the use of translucent layers of pigment.

In the words of Dr Cassar, who lectures on Modern and Contemporary Art at the University of Malta: "The Gozitan landscape is the main focus of Mark Sagona's second one-man exhibition. He does not only present its relevance to today's world but does so with a sense of rich invention.... Sagona is essentially concerned with patterns, light, a sense of architectural structure, and all that contributes to his understanding and knowledge of place. The intensity of light beams that he invents serve as veils of colour, transparently laid over the scene through the application of thin glazes.... Mark Sagona's artistic journey has come a long way with some interesting results. His art is changing gradually as he remains keen in exploring simultaneously new directions in his paintings."



Scorched Stones, 2003, oil on canvas, 60 x 80 cm



Shimmering Conglomeration, 2003, oil on canvas, 50 x 100 cm

A cross-section of Mark Sagona's works of art may be visited online on: www.marksagona.com. The website was inaugurated on the occasion of this exhibition. The artist is currently working on his third personal show, which will be held at St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity later on this year.