

Christopher Saliba - Gozitan Artist

Born in 1975, artist Christopher Saliba received his first artistic training at the University of Malta where he graduated B.Educ. Art Honours. In 1997, he was granted a four-year scholarship at the Accademia di Belle Arti 'Pietro Vannucci' in Perugia, where he studied at the Cattedra di Pittura under the direction of internationally renowned artist Sauro Cardinali. Throughout his studies, Saliba specialised in abstract painting, but he also studied sculpture and etching in depth. The informal and progressive teaching methods applied at the academy enabled Saliba to develop an inquisitive and autocritical approach in terms of his artistic development. The healthy ethos which existed at the academy during the course of his studies triggered the organisation of important artistic projects which were acclaimed by important art critics in Italy. The works presented by Saliba for these projects during the period 1998-2001 were in the form of video art and installations. In June 2001, he presented his dissertation, *La Poetica del Sublime*, and graduated with distinction. The period Saliba spent in Italy enabled him to imbibe the current trends in art, whereas the distance from home enabled the Gozitan artist to appreciate more the unique values and the richness of his native culture.

Saliba's personal idea of the contemporary artist is that of an all-rounder. Painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography,



installations and video art are all valid means by which he expresses his thoughts and emotions. What is common to all his works is his ideology about man and his relation with the natural environment. What Saliba tries to reveal through his art is the spiritual nature of the human being as well as the primordial link between mankind and the natural environment. Saliba exhibited several times in different countries like Italy, England and Malta and his works are to be found in numerous private collections around Europe and the United States. On the local artistic scene Christopher Saliba is known for reviving Land Art in Malta.

Saliba works in his studio at Nadur, Gozo, and teaches art at Sir Wistin Camilleri School of Art in Ghajnsielem. For more information about the artist and a chronology of his past and current works, one may refer to his official website, www.gozo-art.com