

# Mattia Preti events

## 4th centenary celebrations in 2013

Mattia Preti was born in 1613 in Taverna in Calabria, Italy. He worked in Rome and Naples as a painter, and in 1658 he visited Malta where he painted important works for the Knights of the Order of St John. Preti became a Knight of Magistral Grace within the Order of St John under Grandmaster Nicholas Cotoner. He continued to paint and received many ecclesiastical and private commissions for his work in Malta, until his death in 1699. The 4<sup>th</sup> centenary of the birth of this accomplished 17<sup>th</sup>-century artist was marked in Malta in 2013 by an international exhibition, publications, lectures and other initiatives.

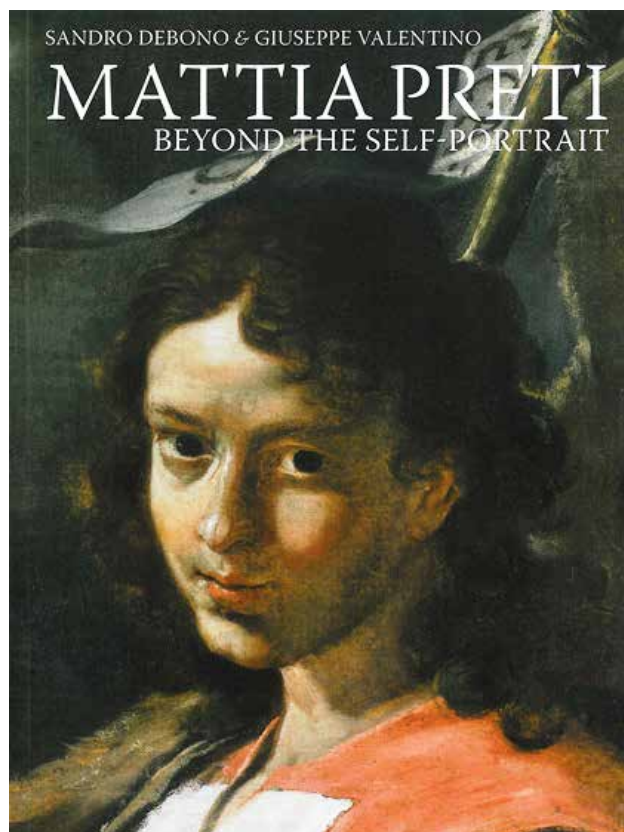
### **Exhibition – ‘Mattia Preti - Faith and Humanity’**

An international exhibition featuring important works by Mattia Preti was organised in 2013, to mark the 4<sup>th</sup> centenary of Preti's birth. The exhibition was set up jointly by Heritage Malta and the *Museo Civico* of Taverna, Preti's birthplace in Italy. The exhibition opened in Taverna in February 2013, and then moved to Malta in May where it was hosted at the Palace of the Grand Masters in Valletta. A series of lectures, tours and workshops were organised during the exhibition, which included loans from various European institutions, as well as works from the collection held by Heritage Malta. The exhibition was curated by Sandro Debono (National Museum of Fine Arts, Malta) and Giuseppe Valentino (*Museo Civico*, Taverna).

### **Mattia Preti: Beyond the Self Portrait**

By Sandro Debono and Giuseppe Valentino, published in 2013 by Midsea Books.

This volume was published to accompany the international exhibition ‘Mattia Preti – Faith and Humanity’ which took place in Taverna and Valletta in 2013, to celebrate the 4th centenary of Preti's birth. The volume includes essays by the curators of the exhibition, Sandro Debono and Giuseppe Valentino, and a foreword by Giorgio Leone from the *Soprintendenza Speciale per il Patrimonio Storico Artistico ed*



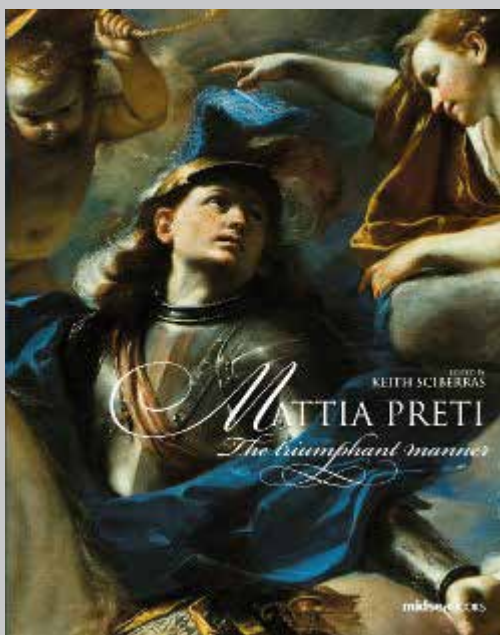
*Etnoantropologico e per il Polo Museale of Rome.*

The authors examine Preti's position as a painter of holy images within the Sovereign Military Order of the Knights of St John in Malta, paying attention to the artist's self-portraits, his personality and the society and culture within which he lived.

This publication was also published in an Italian edition *Mattia Preti: oltre l'autoritratto*, translated by Virginia Ciccone.

### **Public Lecture – ‘Beyond Faith and Humanity’**

A lecture by Sandro Debono, Senior Curator at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta, was held on 26 October 2013 at the Chamber of Commerce in Valletta. The lecture reviewed the research questions that the international exhibition ‘Mattia Preti – Faith and Humanity’ set out to answer, and reviewed recent research methodologies on Preti.



### **Mattia Preti: The Triumphant Manner**

Edited by Keith Sciberras, published in 2013 by Midsea Books.

This volume examines Mattia Preti's artistic output in Malta. Researched and edited by Professor Keith Sciberras, who is also the author of the two critical essays which comprise the first part of the book, the book contains over 150 catalogue entries co-authored by Prof. Sciberras and Jessica Borg. The book includes over 270 paintings photographed by Joe P. Borg.



### **Seminar – 'Mattia Preti, Gregorio Carafa: Due Cavalieri Gerosolimitani tra Italia e Malta'**

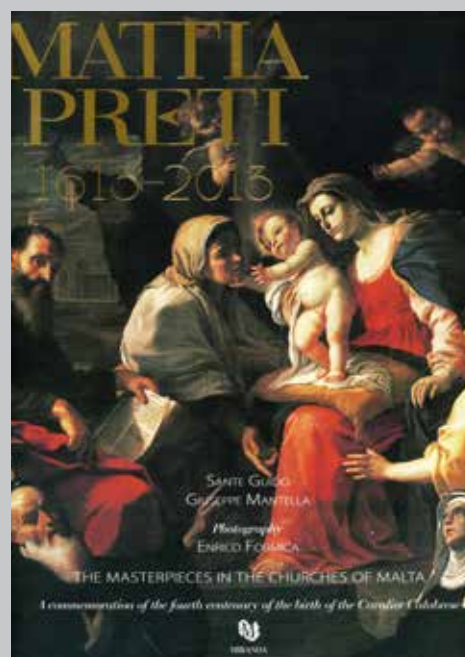
On 12 June 2013, a day seminar on Mattia Preti and Gregorio Carafa was held in Valletta, organised by Sante Guido, Giuseppe Mantella and Maria Teresa Sorrenti together with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura. The morning session was moderated by Judge Giovanni Bonello and included papers by Cecilia Parri, John Spike, Denis De Lucca and Theresa Vella. The afternoon session was moderated by Salvatore Schirio and presentations were delivered by Arthur Saliba, Maria Teresa Sorrenti, John Azzopardi, Sante Guido, Giuseppe Mantella and Alexander Debono.



### **Mattia Preti: Faith and Humanity**

Edited by Sandro Debono and Giuseppe Valentino, published in 2013 by Midsea Books.

This book was published to accompany the exhibition organised by Heritage Malta and the *Comune di Taverna*, in order to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Mattia Preti's birth. It includes entries on the 49 artworks that formed part of this unique exhibition, as well as nine papers by Craig Felton, Giuseppe Valentino, Giorgio Leone, Luigi Tassoni, Kristina Hermann Fiore, Devin Therien, Robert Cassar, Sandro Debono and Caterina Bagnato.



### **Mattia Preti 1613-2013: the Masterpieces in the Churches of Malta**

by Sante Guido and Giuseppe Mantella, published by Miranda Publications in 2013.

This book commemorates the 4th centenary of Mattia Preti's birth. The Italian text was translated into English by Dr Theresa Vella. This volume focuses on paintings by Mattia Preti in Maltese Baroque churches.