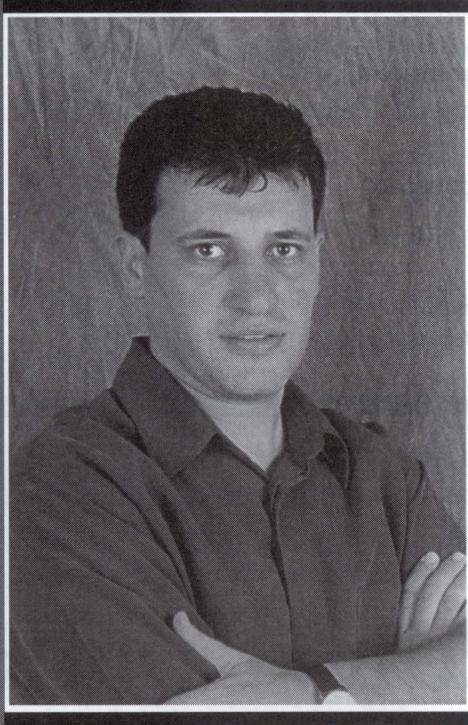


John L. Grima

Gozitan Artist



John Grima was born in Gozo in 1967 and attended the Sacred Heart Seminary in Victoria and later followed a three-year course as an architect

assistant and draughtsman at the George Grognet de Vasse Technical Institute at Naxxar. He is currently employed with the Building and Engineering Division of the Projects and Development Department.

John has held five personal exhibitions, three in Gozo (1994, 1996, 1999), one in Australia (1996) and one at the National Museum of Fine Arts

in Valletta in 1997. He has also participated in various collective exhibitions and competitions both locally and abroad. He won the 1997 SAA Best Painting Award Opening Competition in Westminster, London, the Daler-Rowney International Competition, 1998, the Best Professional Award in the Landscape and Townscape Category in the Artist of the Year International Competition (London, 1998), the Crolla d'Oro Premio Internazionale d'Arte e Scultura (Treviso, Italy, 1998), the Search Press Highly Commended Award (Pertshire, Scotland, 1998), and many others. He was selected as one of the five finalists to represent Malta in the Winsor & Newton World-Wide Millennium painting competition.

John has participated in a large number of exhibitions in Malta and overseas. He has just had a successful exhibition in New York (December 2-12)

Prominent features of his works include the clear definition of urban structures, stimulated presumably from his draughtsmanship training, as well as his use of colours which can be bold and luminous or muted and gentle, as seen in some of his watercolours of landscapes and townscapes.

Apart from landscapes he has also shown a keen interest in sacred art as were seen in a recent exhibition "Redemption" held at the Exhibition Hall, The Ministry for Gozo in March/April 1999. His pastel and ink drawings, often geometric and semi-abstracted, are reminiscent of Anton Inghott and Willy Apap. As art critic Dominic Cutajar put it, there seems to be "a kind of atmospheric envelope that these hallowed figures wear around them that can best be described as an immersion of spiritual qualities an elemental luminosity, sensed rather than perceived."

Gozo can be proud of having as one of its sons a person of the calibre of John Grima, and it augurs well for the health of the art scene in Gozo in the future.

