
Profile

Paul Camilleri Cauchi

Born in Victoria, Gozo (2.12.1940), he obtained his education at the Bishop's Seminary, Gozo, St Anthony's College, Mgarr, Gozo, and St Michael's Training College. He obtained diplomas from the Press Art School in London and from Pietro Vannucci in Perugia.

He participated in a number of exhibitions in Malta and overseas. His paintings are to be found in several countries, including America, Brazil, Canada, Australia and Tokyo.

His local works include paintings in churches, including that of Santa Lucia in Valletta, the parish church of San Gwann in Imsierah, in Siggiewi, Haz-Zebbug, Rabat (ta' Giezu), Qrendi, Zurmeq, Sliema (Sacro Cuor), Valletta (tal-Erwieh) and several other churches. In Gozo, he has painted the vaults of St Francis in Victoria, the Immaculate Conception in Qala, Xewkija, San Lawrenz, Fontana and Gharb.

He has works in several genres, but he admits that he is happiest doing sacred art. 'Here I express my artistic inclinations through facial expressions, physical postures, and the folds in the clothing as they are related to the subject matter and the spatial context they occupy', he says.

He prefers the Neapolitan school of art, which includes art masters such as Mattia Preti and Salvator Rosa. In particular he feels attracted to the 19th century phase.

Apart from sacred paintings, Paul has become well-known for his knack of portraying the local scene, including farmers, fisherman and other familiar Gozo themes.

He believes that the Government should give more assistance to full-time artists, including subsidising artist material, and providing tax incentives for exported works of art. Moreover, he says, copyright laws should be enforced.

He was instrumental in setting up Gozo School of Art run by a subcommittee of the Ministry for Gozo, of which he was a member. Part of the brief of this committee was to draw up a program for the promotion of art in Gozo. Included in their job is the setting up of monuments for persons who played a significant part in the development of Gozo, the restoration of ancient buildings such as chapels, the aqueduct, etc. He would like to see more scholarships available for Gozitan students to study arts in Malta and overseas.

