



EDITORIAL

ARTS

Humanity's journey has been fraught by war and tragedy. But through it all, we have endured. Not only that, but our predecessors have left behind a trail of gems—the arts.

Some of the most important archaeological findings have been artistic in nature. From the Cave of Altamira in Spain and the mesmerising Terracotta Army, to the beautiful treasures in Tutankhamun's Tomb, they are all testaments to human tenacity. Legacy builders like Van Gogh, Picasso, and Dali have no equals. Our conclusion—art is human.

For 2018, the **THINK** team is delving into three aspects of human intellectual thought to show the breadth of what research can mean. Our Arts Focus starts this journey.

Nikki Petroni writes about how Maltese artists need to be contextualised in an international setting (pg. 22), while Prof. Raphael Vella interviews a local artist that exhibited at the Venice Biennale (pg. 38)—it does not get more international than that. But the arts are not just paintings, with films (pg. 28), dance to aid Parkinson's Disease (pg. 52), and storytelling for a better quality of life all being part of that world. The issue also reflects on what the 2018 European Capital of Culture means for Valletta's citizens (pg. 64)—not to be missed.

Other research coming out of the University of Malta is as varied as ever. Drones are being used to study Malta's historical sites (pg. 62). Ancient languages (pg. 11) are given their due. Malta's problem with waste management also gets tackled (pg. 48). And, if you'd like a lighter read, just check out our To-do list (pg. 72) to keep you busy during an impressionist spring.

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