

## Lifestyle &amp; Culture

# Science in the City is back in Valletta on 27 and 28 November

Science in the City will be back in Malta's capital Valletta not in September, but on Friday, 27 and Saturday, 28 November. The new dates for this festival have been set by the European Commission to have more time to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The University of Malta's consortium has successfully won the Horizon 2020 European Researchers Night Fund. The ninth edition will host over 30 activities spread around Valletta's iconic Triton Square, City Gate, Parliament Square, Spazju Kreattiv and il-Muza, the Fine Arts Museum.

Centred on the theme Engage, Empower, Enable, this year's attempts to deal with the virus has resulted in an exciting new outlook for the festival. The festival will be a hybrid. Most of the activities held in Valletta will also be digitised allowing the festival to reach new online audiences. The event endeavours to engage its audience innovatively with science and the arts, in an attempt to empower citizens with creative thinking skills and enable them to become free thinking active citizens. The event, part of the EU-wide celebration, European Researchers' Night, funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions of the EU's H2020 programme, has been recognised as an excellent festival by Europe for Festivals



The event is part of the EU-wide celebration, European Researchers' Night. Photo: Elisa von Brockdorff

and Festivals for Europe (EFFE).

Festival coordinator Dr Edward Duca explains that: "For the past eight years, the festival's fundamental aim has been to engage people emotionally and intellectually through a fusion of science and the arts. The festival strives to do more, by introducing creativity, critique and analysis, as well as the trend of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) among researchers and citizens. RRI is about bringing industry, government, citizens, NGOs and researchers together to help tackle the issues of society. To do this we need your help."

"Most of all, we hope young people are inspired to think critically and that this will encourage them to consider a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (Steam). Do join us in celebrating the Science in the City festival, you are a crucial component in our experiment."

Science in the City manager, Karen Fiorini added: "This year the festival will be unlike any other. As COVID-19 continues to overshadow our future by throwing a blanket of uncertainty onto our plans, we have decided to hold the event on both



The ninth edition of Science in the City will host over 30 activities. Photo: Daniel Mifsud

Friday, 27 and Saturday, 28 November and to digitise the festival, as much as possible. This will give everyone a chance to join us without crowding over 30,000 people into the city on one night. Having an online presence will help with social distancing and allow the festival to happen even if we are forced back into self-isolation. Do visit our Facebook page later on this summer to see how we plan to do this."

The Science in the City consortium is led by the University of Malta and the Malta Chamber of Scientists, in partnership with the

Ministry for Finance and the Parliamentary Secretariat for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation, MCAST, Esploira, BPC International, MEUSAC, PBS, Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta Local Council, Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, More or Less Theatre and Kreattiv of the Malta Arts Council.

For regular updates please follow the festival Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ScienceInTheCityMalta/](https://www.facebook.com/ScienceInTheCityMalta/); Twitter: @SciCityMalta; Instagram: @scicitymalta; TikTok: @ScienceintheCityMalta

## MSA revives works by its members online

• The Malta Society of Arts is showcasing artworks which have been exhibited at its past members' exhibitions in a series of Facebook posts entitled 'Reminiscing perceptions'

Like many other arts organisations around the islands, the Malta Society of Arts' (MSA) physical doors are closed at the moment. However, all throughout the pandemic, the MSA remained very much open to business through its online presence and continuous support to its members and loyal public.

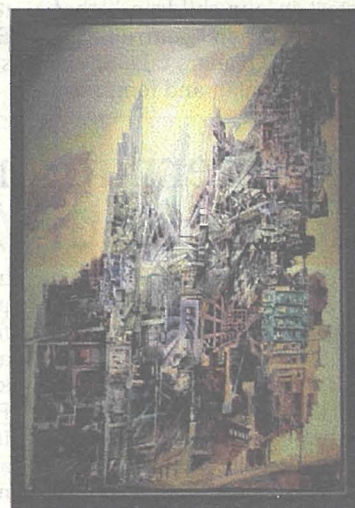
One of the initiatives taken by the MSA to remain in touch with the public and keep art alive as much as possible has been *Reminiscing perceptions*. This series of posts on the Society's Facebook page aims at giving a new lease of life to a large number of artworks that have been exhibited at MSA's past two members' exhibitions: *Perception* in 2018 and *Perception: postscripts* in 2019.

These last two editions were particularly successful. The curatorial approach adopted for each was more focussed than in previous editions due to the exhibition's integration into MSA's biggest project to date: AMuSE (Artistic Multi Sensorial Experiences). AMuSE was a three-year collaborative Creative

Europe project involving four European partners led by the MSA itself. This was the first time that a Maltese organisation served as the lead partner in a Creative Europe project.

*Perception* and *Perception: postscripts* saw over 80 artworks exhibited over two years and the Facebook series is only showcasing a selection. All the participating members discussed, researched and experimented with the theme of multi-sensoriality over the months preceding the exhibitions, while attending regular workshops with curator Roderick Camilleri. The result was an incredibly exciting, diverse and eclectic mix of artworks which included tactile and olfactory paintings, mechanical, automated and interactive sculptures, sound images, mobiles and kinetic installations.

The ongoing online series has received very positive feedback from both the artistic community and the general public as it celebrates art and creativity in



Henry Alamango: Galina Troizky Progress Mixed Media

these difficult times. "In times like these it is essential to keep sharing art and to create a sense of community among the artists and those who follow the MSA. If our public cannot yet visit us physically, at least they can still be part of what we do through our online platforms," comments MSA president Arch. Adrian Mamo.



Noel Azzopardi: Bonum Versus Malum Oil on Canvas

The Malta Society of Arts is planning its next members' exhibition for 2021, but of course, it has to add the now infamous COVID-permitting clause. If all goes according to plan, the MSA members' exhibition 2021 will be back with more innovative, well-researched and experimental artwork from the MSA's collaborating artistic community.

To check out all the artworks in the series 'Reminiscing perceptions' visit the Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/maltasocietyofarts/](https://www.facebook.com/maltasocietyofarts/). Artists who are interested in becoming members of the MSA can visit [www.artsmalta.org](http://www.artsmalta.org) or send an email on [info@artsmalta.org](mailto:info@artsmalta.org)