

THE SOVEREIGN ART FOUNDATION
STUDENTS PRIZE
MALTA & GOZO
2026



SOVEREIGN

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STEPHEN GRIFFITH'S FOREWARD



Welcome to The Sovereign Art Foundation Students Prize for Malta and Gozo Awards Catalogue for 2026.

It is again my great pleasure to introduce the catalogue for the Sovereign Art Foundation Student Prize featuring the work of our talented finalists. This year you will notice a difference from previous years. The Foundation was pleased to increase the number of finalists from twenty to thirty. This is important from the point of view of firstly providing more students with the opportunity for

the public to view their art and their skills and secondly for giving more students the opportunity to win one of the three prizes on offer. This year, in addition to the Judges Prize and the Public Vote Prize, we are happy to confirm the continued support of the Arts Council Malta with their generous offer to support one winning student in furthering their art education in Malta or abroad.

In addition to the Student Prize, the Foundation committee is busy organising events with the aim of further supporting art students and art teachers. Recently an online workshop was held for students on how to value and price their art. The aim of the workshop was to prepare students for a career in producing, exhibiting and ultimately selling their work. Many of the pieces from the finalists' exhibition are up for auction so please feel free to place a bid through the Sovereign Art Foundation website. Proceeds from the sale go to the student and to the Art Foundation. Further workshops are in the planning phase so please watch this space for additional information.

As has been stated many times, art is a fundamental, wonderful and important part of our lives. This is why The Sovereign Art Foundation Student Prizes is such a vital part of the art calendar. It exists to provide our younger members of society with not only the encouragement to engage in art but also to give them a forum for their voices to be heard through the pieces they create. The Foundation in collaboration with Arts Council Malta aims to give our students a springboard for a future in the creative field and the confidence to pursue art as a career.

In addition to this the Foundation continues to raise funds which helps us to provide much needed assistance to children in Malta. The Sovereign Art Foundation operates in many countries around the globe with the aim of raising awareness of the plight of under privileged children and by raising funds to help children in some of the most impoverished areas of the world.

In Malta our partnership with Camp Willingness continues. This partnership is possible through the funds raised by the sales of prints and postcards featuring the art of Malta's talented art students and also through the fundraising of Sovereign's hardworking staff and Art Foundation team members. In addition to this fundraising, The Sovereign Art Foundation in Malta is very proud to be able to award prize money not only to the students who enter the art prize but also to the school art departments supporting them.

The Student Art Prize continues to receive support from students and teachers alike, without which the event would not be as successful as it is. The quality of the art submitted continues to astound the judges and presents quite a challenge for them in selecting a winner. In terms of numbers the Student Prize for our ninth year received 125 entries from 40 different schools. This is something for which I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the students and teachers.

To date Sovereign has been very pleased to award cash prizes to winning schools and to their students in the amount of €28,000 along with consolation prizes. For this year's prize the winning schools are set to receive €2,300 toward the development of their art departments and for the winning students, a total cash prize of €800 to reward their efforts.

The entries from the Student Prize 2026 will go on to compete in the 2027 Global Students Prize competing against prize winners from seven other countries. Malta has won twice in this global event giving unparalleled international exposure for both student and their artwork.

As a final few words, I wish to give my heartfelt thanks to all those who entrusted us with their entries, to the schools who encouraged their students to participate, to the willing volunteers at Sovereign with special mentions to Valerie Urrunaga, Susanne Boorman, Angela De' Conti Manduca, Rebecca Vassallo Eminyan, Shane Galea Hall, Pinky Diola, Joanne Abela, Bronte Griffiths, Zoe Debono, Kate Jenkins and Cristina Cassar Difesa, the judges and finally all those who provided additional support.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Stephen F Griffiths



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THE SOVEREIGN ART FOUNDATION



The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) is a charitable organisation that was founded in 2003 to recognise and promote contemporary art talent around the world and bring the benefits of expressive arts to disadvantaged children.

In the same year, SAF launched the Sovereign Asian Art Prize, now widely regarded as the most established and prestigious annual art award in the Asia-Pacific region. Since then, SAF has expanded its global footprint with additional professional prizes in Africa and Portugal.

These prizes are designed to elevate artists onto the international stage, supporting their creative development while raising vital funds through the auction of shortlisted artworks. Proceeds are shared equally between the artists and SAF's charitable programmes, which focus on using expressive arts to support vulnerable children. To date, this unique model has generated over US\$15 million for artists and charitable initiatives worldwide.

SAF also delivers a series of annual Students Prizes, celebrating the importance of art in education and recognising the exceptional creativity of secondary-school students across the globe. Since the launch of the first Students Prize in Hong Kong in 2012, the initiative has expanded to include Guernsey, Bahrain, Singapore, Mauritius, Portugal, the Isle of Man, Malta and Gozo, Gibraltar, and London.

More information can be found at:
SovereignArtFoundation.com

THE SOVEREIGN ART FOUNDATION STUDENTS PRIZE MALTA & GOZO

Established in 2017, The Sovereign Art Foundation Students Prize Malta & Gozo continues to grow as a vibrant platform for young artistic talent across the islands. The Prize brings together students from a wide range of schools, united by the belief that art plays a vital role in nurturing creativity, self-expression, and confidence in young people.

In recognition of the exceptional standard of submissions in recent years, SAF has expanded the number of finalists from 20 to 30, allowing for a broader showcase of the remarkable talent emerging from young artists across Malta and Gozo. The finalists are selected by an international panel of judges.

Throughout the month of March, the Marriott Hotel was transformed into a dynamic exhibition space, showcasing the remarkable work of the finalists. A selection of students also took part in the auction of their artworks, contributing to SAF's ongoing charitable mission.

From the thirty shortlisted pieces, two principal awards are presented: one selected by the judging panel and the other by public vote, reflecting both critical and community recognition.

The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony, with further highlights shared across SAF's social media platforms.

THE PRIZES	STUDENT	SCHOOL
JUDGES' PRIZE	€500	€1,500
PUBLIC VOTE PRIZE	€300	€800
ARTS COUNCIL MALTA PRIZE FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING	€2,000	



CAMP WILLINGNESS

Camp Willingness, the chosen charity of The Sovereign Art Foundation, delivers a unique program designed to support children’s emotional regulation and psychological development through a thoughtful blend of art, nature, and structured play. Through creative expression—such as painting, storytelling, and music—children are encouraged to explore their emotions, build self-awareness, and develop confidence in communicating their feelings.

Alongside this, time spent in nature—through activities like gardening, outdoor exploration, and mindfulness—plays a vital role in reducing stress, improving focus, and enhancing overall well-being. By combining these elements, Camp Willingness creates a nurturing environment where children are supported holistically and given the tools to thrive.

This year, a total of €3,000 was raised in support of this meaningful initiative. Funds were generated through the sale of prints and postcards featuring artworks from past finalists of the local Students Prize, as well as through internal fundraising efforts led by the teams at Sovereign Trust (Malta) Limited and Sovereign Pension Services Limited.

A highlight of this year’s efforts was a dedicated fundraising auction organised with the support of staff members, as well as their friends and families. The event was made possible through the generous contributions of partner service providers, including the gracious hospitality of Malta Marriott Hotel & Spa and the donation of curated hampers by our vending partners.

Thanks to this collective effort, SAF is able to continue supporting children whose families may not have access to private therapeutic programs. Camp Willingness’ themed sessions, held during school holidays, offer immersive and engaging experiences that help children build essential life skills in a safe and supportive setting.



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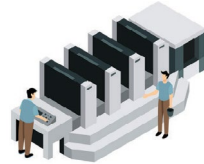
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OUR JUDGES



Howard T. D. Bilton

Chairman and founder of The Sovereign Group – one of the world's largest privately-owned consultancies specialising in the provision of offshore trusts and companies and associated international tax advice. Howard holds a joint honours BA degree in classics and law from the University of Keele and is qualified as a Barrister and called to the Bars of England/Wales and Gibraltar. He currently lives and works in Hong Kong. He is a regular contributor of articles for The Telegraph and Financial Times. He is a visiting non-resident professor at Texas A and M University where he assists with their LLM and Masters degrees in International Tax and Offshore Centres. In 2003 he formed The Sovereign Art Foundation Limited, now registered in Hong Kong, Singapore, Guernsey, South Africa, Malta & Gozo, Portugal and the UK. He is the principal of Hillvalley Limited, which since 2005 has been making wine in Portugal, this is sold throughout the world under the "Howard's Folly" brand name.



Stephen Griffiths

Stephen Griffiths is Managing Director of Sovereign Trust (Malta) Limited and a director of Sovereign Pension Services Limited. Stephen has worked in the financial service industry for many years both in the United Kingdom, Gibraltar and in Malta where he has lived with his family for more than 12 years. Prior to leaving the UK Stephen worked as a management consultant for one of the UK's largest service providers and before that as a marketing and advertising consultant in print media and television. "As early as I can remember art has always played an important role in my life. My grandfather was a very talented artist and passed on a love of art to me. I am therefore honoured to be part of something that helps encourage that same love of art in others." – Stephen Griffiths.

OUR JUDGES



Laura Swale

Laura is an artist and former secondary school art teacher and head of department of fifteen years. Now an entrepreneur, she is currently developing new businesses in the Arts in Malta. These are Allura: Malta Open Art Studios, designated to be Malta's pilot social enterprise, and the MACC: the Malta Arts and Culture Club, a creative hub for those who love all things cultural and Arts-related. Her background is in the visual arts, namely fine art, illustration, textiles, printmaking, digital art and graphic design. She is also working towards a Post-graduate Diploma in Interior Design. Her creative ventures draw upon her wide and varied artistic background and range of creative skills in order to drive innovation and change in an industry she is passionate about. She has also previously worked in galleries and exhibitions, office management, publishing and retail, and has a background in events and project management. Her people-facing teaching career has given her a vast amount of presentation experience, upon which she now draws for the networking, public relations and marketing aspects of her new enterprises. These are driven by a passion for the Arts and for Malta itself, which she has come to love since relocating in April 2016. These projects are motivated by a desire to support, promote and celebrate the Arts and to drive constructive change in the creative sectors, so that the Maltese Arts and cultural sectors might evolve alongside social, economic and environmental change. Laura is also a French speaker. Her creative portfolio can be viewed at www.lauraswale.com



Caroline Miggiani

Caroline Miggiani graduated from the University of Malta in 2012 with a degree in History of Art. Later on, in 2017, she was awarded a Master's degree in the same discipline. Her main research interests include art produced during the First and Second World Wars and 20th century British artists who have a connection with Malta. Miggiani has recently published a book entitled *The Official Colours of War* and has also written articles for local publications including *Treasures of Malta*, *Melita Historica* and *the Times of Malta*. She has recently curated a couple of local art exhibitions.



Christine Porter Lofaro

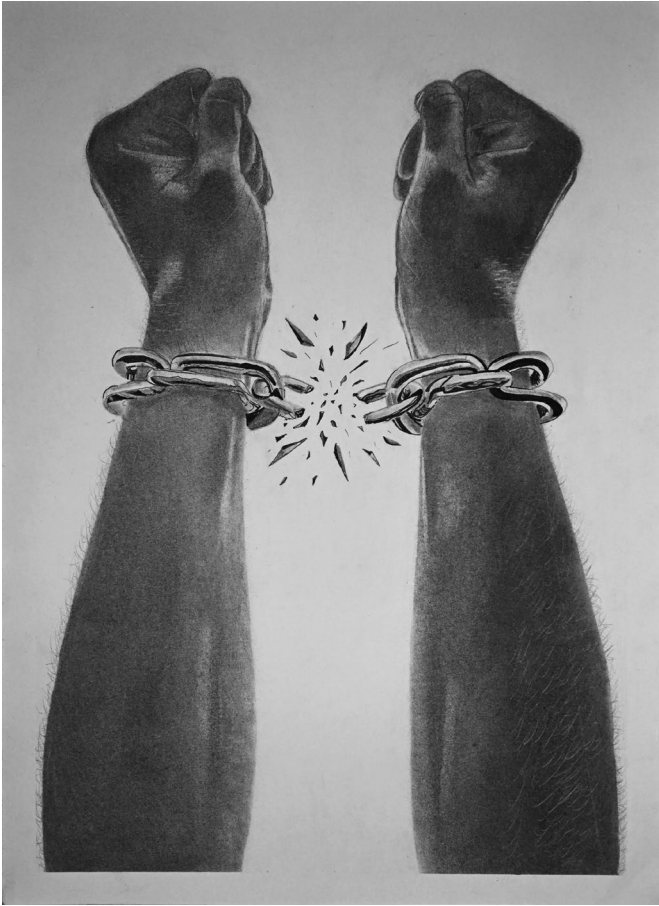
Christine Porter Lofaro commenced her artistic formation at a young age. She attended Art classes at the Malta Government School of Art and also at the Society of Arts Manufactures and Commerce in Valletta. She continued to develop different styles and techniques under the private tuition of Mr. Harry Alden, who was one of Bridget Riley's students. Christine's highly realistic oil paintings are like snapshots taken from an imaginative world that is narrated through props, things, and figures. Her work takes traditional ways of painting and applies them to current times, through a fresh and contemporary lens. Along with 18 years of teaching experience, Christine holds an honours degree in Art and a Master's degree in Creativity and Innovation from the University of Malta. In 2016, she obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield (UK) with research on studio spaces and the creative process. Christine is a full-time artist and a visiting lecturer at the University of Malta. In 2019, Christine has been added as a member of the International Guild of Realism.



Sarah Calleja

An architect by profession, Sarah Calleja is an artist with a love for painting. The values which she holds closer to heart are form, & feelings. The paintings tell a story by the choice of colour, line and form. Being introduced to watercolour at the age of 6 under the tutorage of Alfred J. Camilleri, Sarah feels that these have become part of her natural expression. Later introduced to acrylics and more recently to oils she enjoys exploring the different mediums, always eager to learn and to experiment. Sarah love to paint en plein artists and find this to be her time to re-balance away from the usual routine. She describes painting outdoors as being a true challenge, a fight against time and the elements, however one which offers such an array of subjects and inspirations. The thrill of producing a painting in a limited time finds no equal to painting in the studio. Studio work on the other hand offers the artists time to explore different approaches and to keep develop her art, somewhat wrapped in her own world. Her works focus on the feeling that a space imposes on her infused with her mood, rather than to create a realistic image. One enjoys working with a variety of medium including charcoal, ink, watercolour, acrylics and mixed medium. Her style can be described as bold in both form and colour, an aesthetic which can be seen across different mediums.

GALLERY OF FINALISTS



Chains of the Mind

Charcoal on paper

30 x 42cm

Aron Camilleri, 15

Archbishop's Minor Seminary School, Tal-Virtu'

This artwork represents the struggle many people face with mental health, feeling restrained by anxiety, depression, trauma, or self-doubt. The breaking chains symbolizes strength, freedom, and the moment of choosing healing. Mental health challenges aren't a weakness, they are experiences, and seeking help and opening-up about your struggles is an act of courage and freedom.



The Candle

Acrylic on canvas

60 x 80cm

Adele Cini Taliana, 13

St. Dorothy Senior School, Zebbug

This painting portrays a woman's face illuminated by a single candle, its warm flame casting dramatic light and shadow across her features. The rich blend of oranges, reds, and cool shadows create an intimate, almost meditative mood, while her direct gaze suggests quiet strength and vulnerability. The candle becomes a symbol of inner light, hope, or reflection amid surrounding darkness.



Spirit of Hope

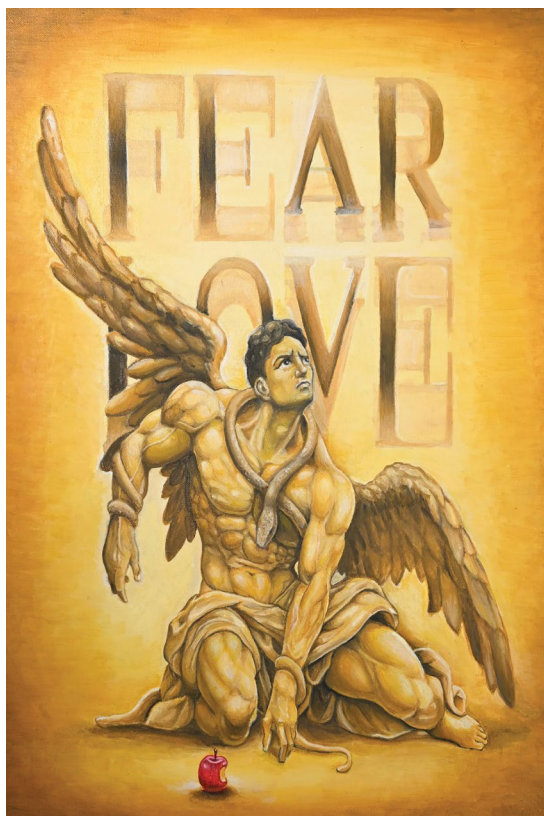
Oil on canvas

40 x 60 cm

Aiden Degiorgio, 18

MAVC, Mikiel Anton Vassallo College – Malta School of Arts

This is an oil painting on an A2 canvas inspired by Goya's black paintings, but with a positive twist.



Fear Love

Oil on canvas

50 x 60cm

Andre Borg, 15

The Malta Visual and Performing Arts School

This painting titled "Fear Love" is an allegory of the way society perceives one of the most valued emotions - Love. The kneeling figure gazing upwards with a mixture of desire, regret and hopelessness narrates the story of being who has fallen to the illusion love projects. The apple represents the temptation of beauty, while the snake symbolizes the silent dangers and corruption. The wings signify purity and strength, emphasizing that even the strongest willed people can be broken by this emotion. The bite mark on the fruit shows the irreversible damage and the coiled snake ready to suffocate the angel depict the fragility and hidden consequences of trust and love.



Axel

Oil on paper

42 x 42cm

Axel Bonnici, 17

G.F. Abela Junior College

This painting is a self-portrait of me captured in a bright, joyful moment, smiling with a sense of freedom and warmth. It reflects a feeling of nostalgia, like looking back on a happier time that still lives inside me. Painting myself this way was more than just creating an imagine – it was a way of getting through a hard and difficult period, reminding myself that happiness and hope still exists even when life feels heavy.



The Odd One Out

Oil on canvas

40 x 60cm

Beatrice Busuttill, 14

St. Dorothy's Senior School, Zebbug

In this expressive still life titled "The Odd One Out", one sees a bird's eye view of a cluster of oranges. The composition is dense and warm, dominated by the rich, textured oranges and deep green leaves of the citrus fruits. This is painting of several oranges surrounding one lemon, the odd one out.



What Time Leaves Behind

Oil paint on canvas

60 x 40cm

Christina Sciberras, 16

Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education

A contemplative portrait exploring time, identity, and self-recognition. An elderly woman gazes a mirror that reflects her younger self, creating a quiet dialogue between past and present. The contrast between age and innocence invites reflection on memory, transformation, and the enduring core of the self.



Skate Static

Mixed media on paper, acrylic and collage 42 x 60cm

Danielle Nevaeh Jimenez, 17

G.F. Abela Junior College

A minimalistic portrait of a young woman on her skateboard.



A Woman's Life

Acrylic on board

24 x 30cm

Elania Tonna, 14

The Malta Visual and Performing Arts School

This painting depicts the three stages in a woman's life: Youth, Adulthood and the elderly years. Youth is represented in the bottom shelf with colourful nail polishes and makeup that are typically used in our youth. Meanwhile, the middle shelf representing adulthood, contains more expensive things that an adult woman could afford to buy and use, like creams and perfumes. The top shelf contains visibly used and empty makeup since it is old, reflecting the elderly stages of life. I also chose to use a warm vs cool palette, using warmer hues at the bottom which gradually decrease the further they move upwards, symbolizing the excitement and energy of life that tend to calm down the older people get.



Capturing the Moment

Acrylic and pastel on paper

48 x 36cm

Emma Brincat, 14

The Malta Visual and Performing Arts School

This painting is based on a moment the artist experienced personally standing in a crowd during a concert. Everyone is close together sharing the same moment and capturing it on their phones, many of whom to share it once again with others on their social media. The raised screens glow like extensions of the body, turning the moment into something that is recorded rather than just felt. Technology connects the crowd, allowing everyone to experience the same moment at once, but it also creates distance by separating each person into their own screen. Light from the phones and stage moves across faces, showing how presence and memory are shaped through devices. The painting captures how technology shapes shared experiences of energy and connection, seen from inside the crowd itself.



What We Have Left

Acrylic on canvas

70 x 60cm

Ingrid Falzon, 15

St. Nicholas College, Francis Ebejer, Dingli Secondary School

War destroys more than cities, it destroys families. While leaders selfishly fight to win, who remembers the innocent people paying the price? This painting shows a mother and her teenager clinging to each other in mourning after great loss. The child's silhouette beside them becomes a symbol of their pain, while their outward gaze suggests searching and still hoping the child, and the father, will return alive. What do you do when each other is all you have left? The harsh impasto textures echo the violence of war as ruined buildings and a broken home close in around them. A shattered family photo, an empty house, even screaming walls. How much loss can one space hold?



Soft Cataclysm

Acrylic on canvas

50 x 70cm

Jake Azzopardi, 16

Gozo College, Ninu Cremona Secondary School

Inspired by the quiet forces that shape landscapes over time, this painting explores the tension between movement and stillness. Fluid layers of neutral tones echo erosion, pressure, and transformation, suggesting a moment where disruption softens into balance. The work invites the viewer to reflect on change not as destruction, but as a subtle and ongoing unfolding, where forms dissolve and re-emerge in a continuous dialogue between chaos and harmony.



Blooming Peacock

Watercolour painting

56 x 76cm

Jiaying Li, 12

St. Martin's College

The artwork depicts a peacock perched among flowering branches, surrounded by lush leaves and blooming flowers. Its long tail feathers cascade downward. The background has a soft, textured, vintage look, with muted tones that contrast gently with the peacock's rich blues and greens. The flowers symbolize beauty, renewal, and gentle growth. Their soft blooms represent life's fleeting moments and emotional warmth, balancing the peacock's bold presence with grace, harmony, and natural softness. The peacock symbolizes beauty, confidence, and pride. It also represents renewal, self-expression, and the strength to stand out.



Caught in the Act

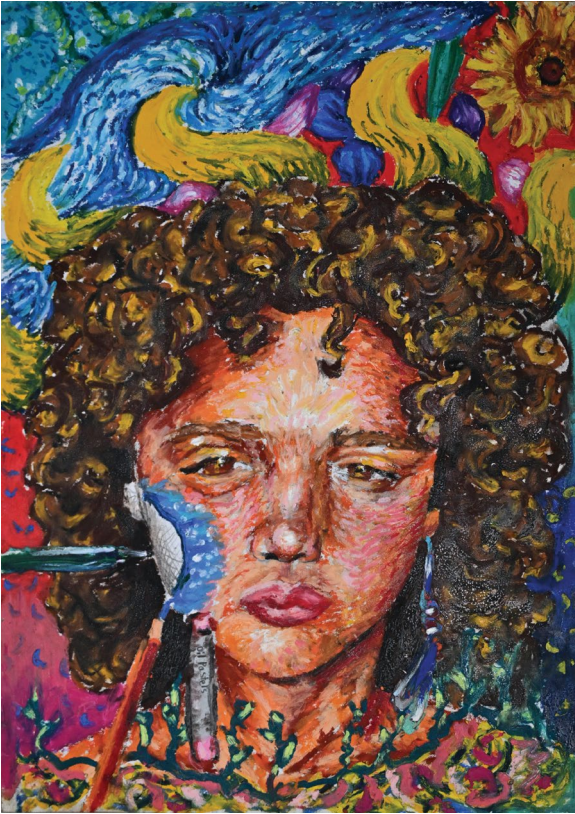
Watercolour painting

56 x 66cm

Jiayu Li, 12

St. Martin's College

A golden retriever is caught committing the most serious crime imaginable: stealing a burger. Set in an empty parking lot with a dramatic billboard in the background, the scene looks like a tense movie moment—even though it's really just a dog following its stomach. The piece is done in watercolour, and the soft, blended textures help soften the setting and give the moment a light, playful feel that adds to the humour.



Pigment and Pulse

Oil pastels and graphite on paper

30 x 41cm

Julia Micallef, 15

St. Joseph Blata l-Bajda

This is a self portrait which shows the young artist in me that is still discovering herself through art and colours, I mimicked Vangogh's strokes to represent my flow of thoughts and emotions and I added flowers and greenery to represent the part of me that's more attracted and at peace in nature. I feel like art is what keeps my heart beating therefore it's my pulse. It's purposely meant to look unfinished in a complete and fulfilled way to show that I'm still developing through an artistic perspective and that my world is made up of colours and brush strokes.



Memories of my Grandfather

Acrylic on paper

30 x 42cm

Katrina Schembri, 13

The Malta Visual and Performing Arts School

Memories of my grandfather.



Ger Gaze

Oil on canvas board

50 x 60cm

Kaya Agius, 16

G.F. Abela Junior College

A portrait of a girl with a heavy gaze, looking to the viewer with intense feelings through her eyes.



Horses

Graphite pencil and PanPastel on paper 42 x 59cm

Kylie Cini Taliana, 15

St. Dorothy's Senior School, Zebbug

This artwork is a study of horses in dynamic motion, focusing on anatomical accuracy, muscle structure, and movement. The theme of power and grace is shown through multiple poses that capture energy, balance and strength. Graphite pencil and PanPastel were used to create tonal shading and expressive line work on paper.



Mgarr Harbour

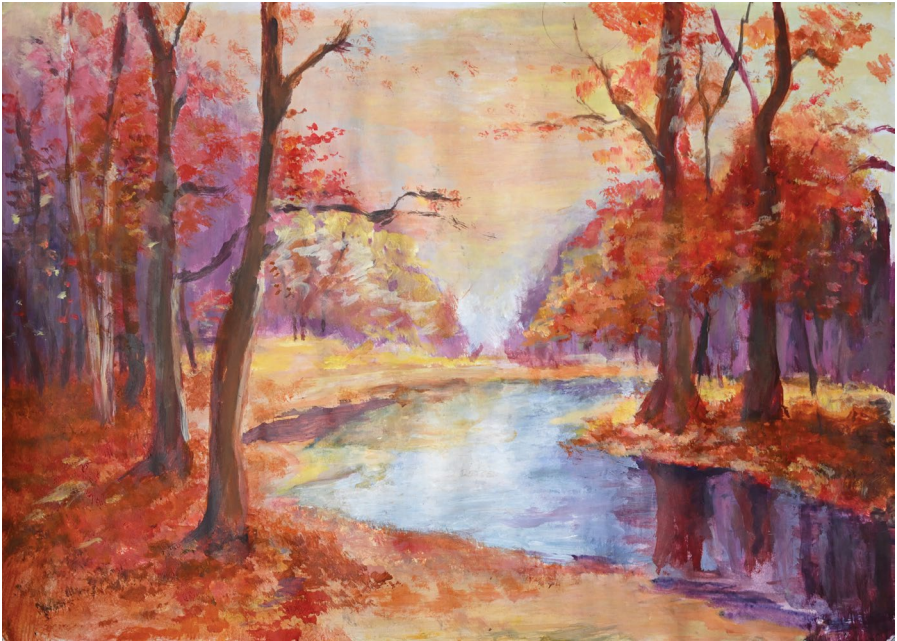
Acrylic on canvas

60 x 70cm

Leanne Buhagiar, 17

G.F. Abela Junior College

This painting is inspired by a day spent with friends exploring and swimming around Gozo. As we prepared to leave on the ferry, I was struck by the intensity of the sunset over Mgarr Harbour. While I captured a photograph of the moment, I felt that a painting was necessary to truly express the energy of the colors. In this work, I focused on the contrast between the dark, silhouetted shapes of the vessels and the vibrant, fractured light on the water's surface. My goal was to capture the transition between the end of a personal journey and the natural drama of the Mediterranean sky. It represents the final look at the island after a long day a moment where the landscape feels both calm and powerful.



October Sea

Acrylic on paper

17 x 12cm

Leonardo Victor Debono, 15

De La Salle College

It's an autumn landscape painting of a quiet river running through a forest. The trees are tall and spread out on both sides, and their leaves are glowing in warm colours like red, orange, yellow, and even some pink and purple. The ground is covered in fallen leaves. The river is the main focus because it reflects the sky and the trees, and it makes the whole scene feel calm and peaceful. In the background the colours fade lighter, giving it a dreamy vibe. I tried to keep the brushstrokes loose and soft so it doesn't look too perfect, but more like a memory of a place you have been. The painting feels warm, quiet, and kind of magical



Colourful Streets of Malta

Watercolour painting

59 x 42cm

Li Bobo, 17

St. Martin's College, Swatar

This artwork was created using watercolor and colored pencils. I accidentally encountered this street in Malta and was drawn to its atmosphere, then searched online and found a reference photo I wanted to paint. The distinctive Maltese balconies, gallarija, and churches, combined with vibrant plants, capture the unique charm of Malta's man-made architecture.



Blooming Outside, Hollow Within

Acrylic on paper

30 x 42cm

Maria Abdulkader, 17

St. Martin's College

This painting explores how trying to meet society's expectations can make you lose yourself. The girl represents the "perfect" version society wants, but in becoming that, she loses her true identity. When she reaches for her reflection, her face is missing, showing how distant she has become from who she really is. The candle represents a small spark of hope in the surrounding darkness. Surrounded by beauty standards, she looks flawless outwardly, but inside she feels disconnected and invisible—illustrating how chasing what others want can make you disappear.



Beauty Dwells in the Blur

Acrylic on paper

42 x 60cm

Mariah Montebello, 16

G.F. Abela Junior College

A portrait painting inspired by someone I hold very close to my heart. He has been through a lot of suffering in his life and has still managed to stay true to himself. I wanted to display this in my painting; thus, I chose pixels to convey my message. I want him to inspire people and show them that even though you go through so much in life you should always work hard to grow and have a beautiful and kind soul just like his. It is important not to give up on yourself. The pixels in this painting show that even though it has flaws and is blurred, it is still beautiful in itself.



The Beacon of Hope

Acrylic on canvas board

50 x 40cm

Mikaela Borg, 14

The Malta Visual and Performing Arts Schools

This painting shows the Gozo boat which used to be the Malta - Gozo ferry boat way back in the old days. Here it is sailing in a storm through the rough sea. The dark clouds and strong waves represent the challenges and struggles of life, while the Lighthouse symbolizes hope, guidance and safety as the light helps the boat find its way. Altogether this makes great contrast and shows that even in dark and difficult situations, you have to look out for that light that gives you hope.



The Forsaken

Watercolour and pencil colours

29 x 41cm

Nicole Calavagna, 15

St. Francis Secondary, Sliema

A monochrome artwork with a strong meaning and emotion. It includes some colour which symbolizes hope contrasting with the darkness of the night and solitude.



The Little Mermaid

Clay relief

30 x 23cm

Runxi Liu, 17

St. Martin's College, Swatar

This relief is inspired from the Little Mermaid, focusing on the moment of inner struggle where love and self-hood. The upward gaze contrasts with the body entwined by the sea, symbolising a desire for escape that remain unfulfilled. Tentacle like ocean forms surround her, serving as metaphor for pain, restraint and silent sacrifice. Her suffering is not limited to a fairy tale but reflect earl-life experiences at enduring loss and self-suppression in the pursuit of love or ideals. Beneath the beauty of the form, the work seeks to convey a quiet yet persistent sense of pain and emotional resonance.



The Star-Light Courier's Winter Night Gift

Digital

42 x 30cm

Shen Ruiyuan, 14

San Andrea School

On a snow-kissed winter night, Glitter the Star-Light Courier, who delivers holiday wishes, hurries through the city streets with glowing star-threads in hand. Her pack is stuffed with candies and pom-poms. She tiptoes to an alley where a child hums carols... hope this warmth can accompany the children through the long cold night.



Expression

Propylene

42 x 30cm

Yixuan Li, 14

St. Clare College, Pembroke Secondary School

By telling girl's stories, friends show different emotions: peace, surprise, etc. This moment is the motive for the picture.



Self-Gaze

Digital painting

35 x 46cm

Yunran Wang, 16

San Andrea School

Self-Gaze is a digital painting crafted stroke by stroke on a tablet. It takes inspiration from Benjamin Victor's 2017 sculpture *The Angel*. Set in a derelict church, a beam of light embraces the angel figure, with shadowy textures lingering around. The piece mirrors my inner world, laying bare the conflicting tug-of-war I feel when looking deep within.



A Face to the Faceless Victims of War

Acrylic and pastels on canvas board 30 x 42cm

Zack Joseph Abela Wadge, 14

The Malta & Performing Arts School

This portrait of a young girl in Gaza, is meant to remind people of the innocent people suffering and dying in countries hit by war. These days we are bombarded by the media on the various conflicts taking place around the world. We hear about the numbers of people perishing there and this happens so often we tend to think of people as numbers. Those numbers have a face, those faces had lives, families, dreams, aspirations... All taken away with no disregard by those in power.

SUPPORTERS

Much gratitude to our dear sponsors. Without your contribution, the SAF Student Prize Malta & Gozo and this event would not be a success.



Dr Luke Dalli, Dr Nikki Petroni & Mr. Daniel Azzopardi from Arts Council Malta



Mariella Borg Bondin, Neville Xuereb and all the staff at The Marriott



Kenneth & Daniella Gauci Borda from VEE GEE BEE



Antoine Pace from Poultons



Bronte Griffiths from Olive Photography

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The Sovereign Art Foundation team in Malta is represented by Angela De' Conti Manduca, Susanne Boorman and Valerie Urrunaga together with the invaluable support of the wider Sovereign staff.

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To the teachers, coordinators, and heads of the participating schools – thank you for your dedication to nurturing young talent and inspiring the next generation of artists.

We are equally grateful to all the students who submitted their artwork through our platform, and especially to our 30 finalists for their creativity, hard work, and enthusiasm, as well as to their families for their support.

A special thank you goes to our distinguished panel of judges – Laura Swale, Caroline Miggiani, Christine Porter Lofarno, and Sarah Calleja – for their time, expertise, and careful consideration.

Finally, our deepest appreciation goes to our judge and CEO, Howard Bilton. This competition would not be possible without his vision and unwavering commitment to its continued growth and success.

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