

**Opening of Art Exhibition 'Sfumaturi'**  
**Daphne Anne Caligari Conti**  
**Opening speech by H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**  
**1<sup>st</sup> July at 19:30 hrs**

Good evening, dear friends

Thank you, Daphne Anne Caligari Conti, for inviting me to open your art exhibition this evening, in such a typical beautiful Maltese environment.

It is always such a pleasure to come to Ir-Razzett tal-Markiz. I am always so amazed with the many activities that the committee holds.

I was honoured many a time to be invited to the showcasing of the many beautiful works of art of accomplished artists like you, Daphne.

Dear Friends, tonight, we gather here to celebrate the extraordinary talents of two artists and a musician, who have come together from different backgrounds and nationalities.

Today's exhibition will serve as a platform for them to express their innermost thoughts, emotions, and values through diverse media, subjects, colours, and expressions.

Allow me to say a few words about Daphne and Martin, two most talented artists.

Daphne and Martin, are both local artists, who have captivated audiences with their poignant use of unique colours and their ability to interplay and blend diverse techniques, creating masterpieces that evoke deep reflection.

Interestingly, I am informed, that both Daphne and Martin are not only artists but also scientists, with backgrounds in mathematics and physics. Their scientific training has imbued them with a different perspective on the world, and when combined with their artistic profession, it yields a profound sense of truth, justice, and beauty in their works.

I am informed that the artists draw inspiration from every art form and style throughout history, merging and blending them to create breath-taking compositions.

Their dedication to their craft is reflected in the high level of detail they infuse into their pieces. Their passion for nature and sustainability shines through in every piece of art, as they beautifully depict the essence of our Maltese heritage, the wonders of nature, and the importance of religion.

Alongside the visual array of beautiful art, we are fortunate also to have a unique musician gracing us with her talents today.

I am also told that Kristina Mikalauskas is a truly inspiring individual who is making a positive impact in the lives of children with special needs.

I commend you Kristina for combining your expertise as a professional musician with your role as the Director of International Studio School of Arts here in Malta, showing your dedication to supporting children in their artistic and social development.

By helping Children overcome their psychological hurdles, I am sure, that you are undoubtedly making a significant difference in their lives.

To me it is so heartening to see professionals, who are passionate about using their talents and skills to make a difference in the lives of others, and in particular, in the lives of children.

I am certain that everyone is looking forward to listening to you enchant us with melodies with each piece reflecting your unique identity and personal compositions.

As we listen to your music, we will be transported through different flavours and styles, all while experiencing the beauty and familiarity of Maltese melodies and songs that resonate deeply within us.

This exhibition goes beyond mere aesthetics.

It delves deep into the human psyche, inviting us to contemplate the complexities of the world around us.

Through their art and music, these gifted individuals strive to communicate their values, to provoke thought and emotion, and to create connections that transcend language and cultural boundaries.

Dear friends, as you explore the artworks and immerse yourself in the melodies that fill the air, I encourage you to let your imagination roam freely.

Let us all discover the stories behind each stroke of the brush and every note played, and allow ourselves to be moved by the artists' expressions of their innermost being,

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the artists for sharing their incredible talent with us tonight.

Their dedication and commitment to their craft are evident in the outstanding pieces we are privileged to witness.

I also want to express my appreciation to the organizers and all those who have made this exhibition possible, among them Joe Bartolo, who takes such loving care of the Razzett tal-Markiz and makes it possible for us all to enjoy.

I would like to show deep gratitude to you, Daphne, for your altruistic decision to donate 20% of the funds raised from the sale of your paintings to the Malta Trust Foundation.

I established the Malta Trust Foundation in 2015 with the specific aim of assisting and supporting young individuals facing challenging situations.

The Foundation's mission is achieved through concrete actions, empowering and providing psychosocial support to vulnerable groups who often fall outside existing safety nets.

The Malta Trust Foundation, within the framework of corporate social responsibility, brings together esteemed businessmen, academics, and professionals from the psychosocial field to make a significant and lasting impact.

Every initiative undertaken by the Trust is well-defined, well-researched, costed, and planned meticulously to ensure it targets and creates a tangible difference within existing service gaps, while also ensuring sustainability for years to come.

The fight against poverty and social exclusion lies at the heart of the Malta Trust Foundation. It strives to educate and empower individuals to reach their full potential, focusing on projects of a psychosocial nature.

As Chair of the Foundation, ensures that tangible impacts are made on existing service gaps, enabling students, young people, and children with disabilities to overcome what were once insurmountable challenges.

With the firm belief that equity can be advanced within our communities, the Malta Trust Foundation strives to ensure that every person, regardless of their circumstances at birth, has the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life. It is my sincere hope that the Foundation continues to flourish, touching the lives of countless individuals and making a lasting difference.

One of the initiatives that is my pride and joy is Villa Bianca, school of music and the Arts. The school is a specialised, not-for-profit provider of Music Sessions and Music Therapy to children and young people that may have little access to such artistic experiences.

This Centre explores Music at its core, and we are hoping to extend its services to other Arts in the future.

I truly believe that Music has the power to support, enrich, even transform the human experience.

Children with impairments deserve access to the Arts especially for their power to enhance personal growth and development and this has been proved successful through Villa Bianca.

This Space for Music is founded on the belief that artistic experiences can help individuals to untap pathways of communication and self-expression, leading to a strong sense of empowerment.

So, thank you once again, for helping us in changing the lives of so many special children. May the spirit of generosity and altruism continue to thrive within your hearts.

Finally, I invite you all to indulge in this celebration of artistic freedom and expression. Let us embrace the profound beauty that lies within these works of art and the melodies that will uplift our spirits.

May this exhibition be a source of inspiration, reflection, and joy for all who experience it.

Thank you and enjoy the exhibition.