

CEDRIC GALEA PIROTTA
Place De Brouckere 22, 1000 BRUSSELS



Holy Neighbour

Cedric Galea Pirota (b.1971) is a young artist from Malta who has drawn and sketched ever since he could remember.

Self-taught, Cedric has experimented with various techniques and media – mainly oils and acrylics. Owing to his past technical and Engineering background, as well as proficiency in Graphic Design, in these past years, the artist has been concentrating on mastering the art of pen and ink (together with washes) to bring out the character of the Maltese stone.

Apart from countless pen strokes, washes of ink, watercolour and sometimes, even airbrush, are also applied to enhance depth in the picture.

Cedric always has a camera at hand to enable him to study and record his surroundings so as to capture that particular play of light and shadows that

will then be used as a subject for his works. More often than not, multiple visits to the same site are required during different time of the day or even different seasons, to obtain a strong contrast between the warmth of the Maltese limestone and the coolness cast by shadows

“...Everything is changing so fast around us, and even before we start to appreciate what we have – it is gone! Walls and coats of Arms eroded by weathering cannot last much longer. Historical buildings are slowly giving way to modern glass and concrete structures...”



Salt pans

The Maltese Islands are packed with treasures that have been carved and built by the skilled hands of our forefathers. Appreciating what is common to all those who live on or visit this Island and recording memories of such treasures on paper is what Cedric Galea Pirota tries to do.



Royal Milestone

“...Apart from enjoying expressing myself in art, I try and point out the beauty of what surrounds us on our little island – and is taken for granted. Too many a time have we gone past things unnoticed. Through my art, I try to make the audience aware of all this.”

SHOWCASE FORM MALTA is a solo exhibition consisting of 16 paintings by this young Maltese artist.

In this collection, as with all his previous collections and exhibitions, Cedric takes us on a journey through the cities and villages of the Maltese Islands and vividly highlights some of the Maltese landscape – perhaps in a different way than traditional postcard views.

Within the great city walls, the facades of *Auberge de Castille* and the *relief of Gregorio Caraffa Bust at Auberge d’Italie*, show the greatness and influence that the Knights had left when in Malta. The intricate baroque detail can



Our Lady of Liesz Church

also be seen on the numerous churches and chapels throughout the island - such as those seen on the *Waterfront Chapel* and *Our Lady of Liesse Church*. Supporting columns of such buildings are also highly detailed such as in the case of *Corinthian Detail*.



Valletta Balconies

Protected Dome portrays how the fortress walls sheltered both local inhabitants and their religion during the Great Siege. Moving out of the city, the focus is shifted onto less historically important shots – that, nonetheless are an important part of the Maltese heritage and also of great attraction to the artist. Hence, one can view derelict balconies – abandoned to the mercy of the elements such as in *Valletta Balconies* and *Cargo House*. *Holy Neighbour* depicts a religious niche in the corner of a village house together with its adjacent balcony – silently keeping each other company. *Il-Habbata* demonstrates a close up of a hand-made door clapper casting its sharp shadows on a wooden door.

Leaving the villages, one comes across several milestones – most of which eorded, which used to bear the Royal Emblem (one of which is depicted in *Royal Milestone*). An old well peeps from behind a rubble wall in *The Hidden Well* and *Erosion* is an example of how the soft Maltese limestone, in this particular case - balustrades, is worn out by weathering. A *Rural Stairway* leads us to the top of a small

farmer's shed from where we can view *Kirkop Church* and the stepped skyline of this quaint rural village.

Our forefathers' work in stone can be tracked down to the seashores of this little island, where one can view the *Salt pans* – that were used as an early method of salt collection.

Through this short trip, the artist hopes that the message is relayed on. It does not matter where one lives - if a person stops for a short period from this fast moving world and looks around him, he will surely notice and appreciate things that had never before caught his attention. By noticing such details and surroundings, each of us can be a protector and ambassador for his country.



Castille

The exhibition **SHOWCASE FROM MALTA** is one of the official events held as part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Brussels as Capital of Europe.



Protected Dome

This is the fourth solo exhibition for Cedric Galea Pirota – the first three all held in his home country Malta.

The love the artist has for his country is translated in the topics he paints and expresses on paper. **STONWORKS, SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR ISLET** and **MALTA OF LINES AND WASHES** were all very successful solo exhibitions. In addition to the above-mentioned, Cedric has also taken part in numerous collective exhibitions throughout the island.



Waterfront Chapel

Preserving our Heritage – WhereMALTA Magazine

“Elegance, delicacy and unique taste distinguish Cedric Galea Pirotta from other uprising local artists. His work emanates a hushed silence, producing a soothing yet sharp effect, exuding sensations and effects that are thrilling to the eye and heart.”

New Collection by ‘photographic’ artist – The Sunday Times by Chev. E. Fiorentino

“...Though he has no particular training in art, Galea Pirotta has a technical and engineering background, besides being proficient in graphic design. Coupled with his sensitivity towards his surroundings, this must have led him to choose his pen and inks as his preferred medium for reproducing his stone-related subjects to

Extracts from reviews about the artist on local media:

Mind Over Matter – Weekender by A. Vella

“...Mr Galea Pirotta's forte is his amazing drawing skill, a pre-necessity for any artist worth his salt. It really is a question of mind over matter, as, with no more than a pen and wash and a steady hand, he succeeds in creating incredible textural effects...Aged stone, eroded by wind and time really is Mr Galea Pirotta's first love. Looking at his paintings over and over again, it's hard to believe how he succeeds in reproducing with literally millions of fine strokes, every crevice and cavity of old, wind-eroded stone. In his *Bieb ta' l-Imdina* he combines the perfect reproduction of stone with his unerring draughtsmanship, building up a composition that is a perspective nightmare - and pulls it off! The end result is quietly stunning, and all the more so for being handled only in black and white.”



Rural Stairway

perfection... For indeed whenever we look at such subjects the feeling is akin to viewing some old photograph of the real thing. Just as the camera never lies, the same thing can be said for his drawings... Cedric Galea Pirotta must be considered as one of the very few artists in Malta who comes up tops in the genre that he employs. For a relative newcomer with a comprehensive agenda, I consider his work as technically beyond reproach. It is that kind of expression that demands nothing more than a visual empathy with all those who cherish the fascinating singularity of our island home”



Il-Habbata

Haunted by the Spirit of Old Stone - The Sunday Times by Chev. E. Fiorentino

“When Galea Pirotta first emerged on the local scene, I immediately felt that here was that rare kind of artist who, despite having a limited agenda in his artistic expression, left no doubt that he was subscribing to a genre of paintings in which he barely has any equals among other contemporary Maltese artists... For the artist, Valletta is indubitably a city which entreats the passer-by to look up at the architectural adornments, though in effect few people make such efforts.”

“With him nothing is done perfunctorily. With his zeal and indomitable spirit there is a readiness to move ahead. In him there is the dichotomy between someone whose daily job has to do with computers, that inevitable tool for the modern world, and his fixation to illustrate the charming aspects of old Malta.”

Thank you for your time and visit – Cedric Galea Pirotta

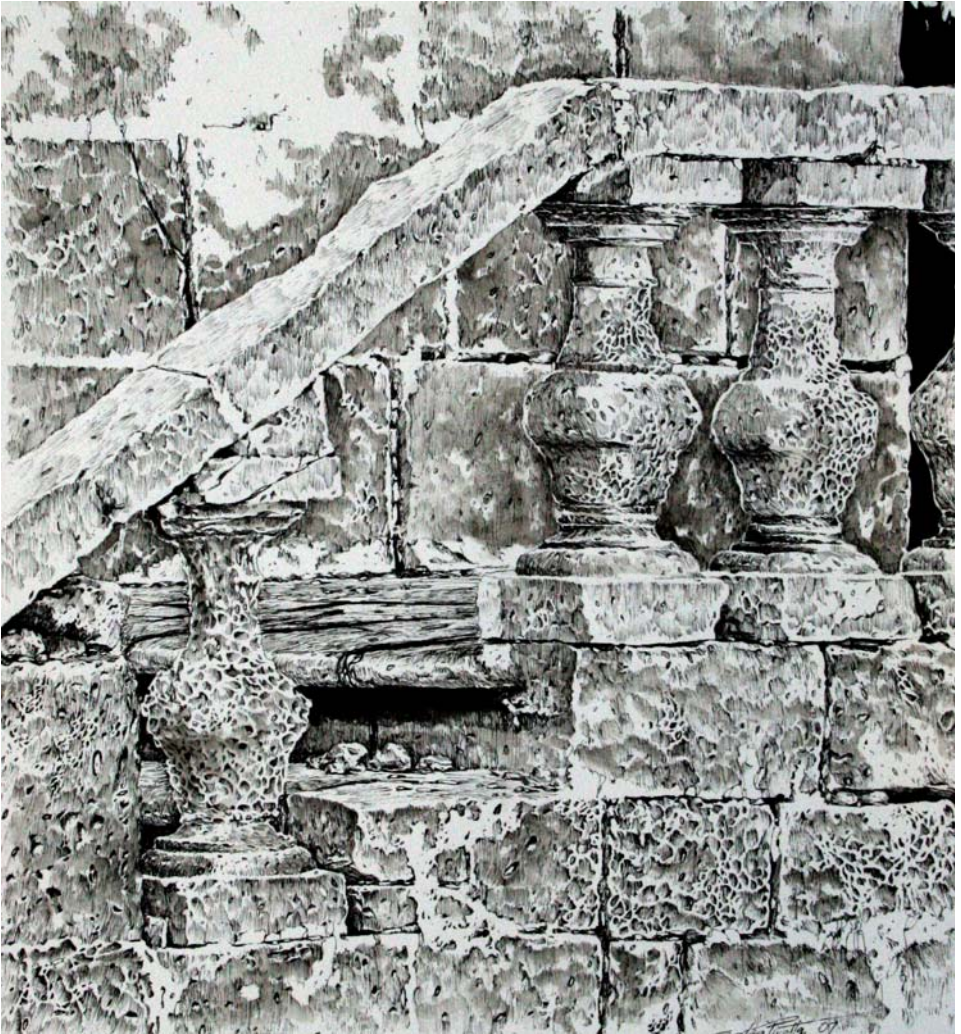
More information about the artist, his works and events can be obtained from

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Erosion



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