

Saturday 6 April 2024

Unknown Prescription: Meet the Artist Charles Balzan

Exhibition Walkthrough

As the current contemporary exhibition *Unknown Prescription* comes to an end (open until Sunday 14 April 2024), Il-Haġar Museum offers art lovers the opportunity to meet one of the three Maltese artists, Charles Balzan, who will walk them through his part in the exhibition.

Unknown Prescription: Meet the Artist Charles Balzan is scheduled for Saturday 6 April 2024 at 11:00 at the Museum.

Charles Balzan is a conceptual artist whose medium ranges from installation, photography, etching, painting, and drawing. His work reveals his interests in philosophy, theology, and poetry and is a visceral exploration of the unconscious and the primitive urges within us. Primal emotions such as rage, terror, or traumatic conditions are conveyed through bodily postures whose vulnerability is synonymous with pain and an insatiable craving for connection, solace, and liberation.

Charles Balzan's portfolio boasts a national prize at the 'ru:t/' (2014) exhibition. He has also participated in various other exhibitions such as Smudge at Studio 87 (2018), 'NUD' at Desko (2019) and X-Posed (2019) at the Art Academy – London, and 'Darkness at Noon' (2021) at Splendid. Of particular interest is his photobook 'Not Alone' published by EDE (2017) which intimately probes and explores his immediate family.

This is an occasion for the audience to have a more genuine encounter with this artist before the closure of this contemporary exhibition. Balzan's latest endeavour of blackening stones with soot and then printing onto them is reminiscent of destruction and loss but also of creativity and meaning. The breaking up of the bodies into fragments placed strategically around the Museum cannot but invite the visitor to ponder the continuum extending between life and the possibility of an afterlife, with death as its fulcrum.

Entrance to the Museum is free. Reservations for the event is recommended by emailing: events@heartofgozo.org.mt.



Il-Haġar|Heart of Gozo Museum, Cultural Centre, and Community Space is run by Fondazzjoni Belt Victoria, a voluntary organisation registered in Malta (VO/0762), and a founder member of the Gozo NGOs Association (HNR0004)

Is-Sibt 6 ta' April 2024

Unknown Prescription: Laqgħa ma' l-Artist Charles Balzan

Wirja Akkumpanjata mill-Artist

Is-Sibt 6 ta' April 2024 fil-11:00 il-Mużew Il-Ħaġar jilqa' lill-artist Malti Charles Balzan sabiex jakkumpanja lill-pubbliku f'spjegazzjoni tax-xogħol tiegħu esebit bħalissa f'wirja kollaborattiva ma' żewġ artisti lokali oħra taħt l-isem *Unknown Prescription*. Din il-wirja ser tibqa' miftuħa sal-Ħadd 14 ta' April 2024.

Charles Balzan huwa artist kuncettwali li jagħmel użu minn installazzjonijiet, fotografija, inċizzjonijiet, pittura u tpingija. Ix-xogħol tiegħu jirrifletti l-interess tiegħu fil-filosofija, fit-teologija kif ukoll fil-poezija, xogħol li jesplora l-inkonxju u x-xewqat primittivi tal-bniedem. Emożzjonijiet primittivi bħar-rabja, il-biża' u kundizzjonijiet trawmatici jittrasmettu ruħhom f'qagħdiet partikolari tal-ġisem uman li jikkomunikaw l-uġieġħ u l-vulnerabilità li jgorr miegħu kif ukoll ix-xewqa għall-konnessjoni, għas-serħan u għal-liberazzjoni.

Charles Balzan rebaħ il-premju nazzjonali meta pparteċipa fil-wirja 'ru:t/' (2014). Huwa ħa sehem ukoll f'bosta wirjiet oħra bħal Smudge fi Studio 87 (2018), 'NUD' f'Desko (2019) u X-Posed (2019) fl-Art Academy – Londra, u 'Darkness at Noon' (2021) fi Splendid. Il-ktieb ta' fotografija ntitolat 'Not Alone' u ppublikat minn EDE (2017) jesplora b'mod intimu l-familja l-aktar vicina tiegħu.

Din ser tkun okkażjoni fejn il-pubbliku jista' jiddjaloga b'mod aktar ġenwin ma' l-artist qabel l-għeluq ta' din il-wirja kontemporanja. F'din il-wirja l-artist sewwed il-ġebbla Maltija bin-nugrufun u stampa fuqha xbiehat tal-ġisem uman. Il-messaġġ huwa wieħed ta' distruzzjoni u telfa imma wkoll ta' kreatività u tifsira partikolari. L-artist kisser ukoll il-figura tal-ġisem uman fi frammenti u poġġihom b'mod strateġiku ġewwa l-Mużew. Dan il-ġest jinwita lill-pubbliku biex jaħseb serjament fuq is-sekwenza ta' bejn il-ħajja u l-ħajja ta' wara l-mewt, bil-mewt bħala l-fulkru ta' din il-kontinwità.

Dhul għall-Mużew huwa b'xejn. Huwa rrakkomandat li tiriservaw il-post tagħkom billi tibagħtu email fuq: events@heartofgozo.org.mt.



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