

ISLELANDERS

Darrin Zammit Lupi



MALTA
ARTS
FUND





Synopsis

Islelanders is a photographic art project which is based on my broad experience as a photojournalist with the Times of Malta and Reuters, documenting the lives of asylum seekers and migrants through and after their journey across the Mediterranean Sea.

The project will take place throughout 2014 with the aim of exploring the development and impact of artistic photography on the general public through different platforms:

- **New media:** blog, social media, tablet, smartphone etc
- **Art Exhibition:** Photographic art exhibition
- **Coffee Table Publication:** Photographic publication in large format

The project will commence in January 2014 with the launching of an online blog supported by a number of social media platforms. This online platform will also serve as a marketing tool to promote the planned coffee table publication and the photographic exhibition.

Throughout January - November, I will continue to develop new elements for the project and explore the subject from different photographic angles, with particular emphasis on integration and daily life. These will be juxtaposed with retrospective images, with the aim to highlight a decade of development and change in Malta.

The project is seeking funds and private investors to support it.

Darrin Zammit Lupi

Inside:

WHY IT IS NEEDED | 3 ELEMENTS | NEW MEDIA | ART EXHIBITION | PUBLICATION | TIMELINE | BUDGET | ANNEX | CD

COVER: A would-be immigrant looks out of a window on a police bus after arriving at the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) Maritime Squadron base at Haywharf in Valletta's Marsamxett Harbour.

- 
- A photograph of a man sitting on a bench in an urban setting. The man is wearing a white t-shirt and dark pants, and is looking down at something in his hands. The background shows a building with a white door and a person standing in the distance. The foreground is blurred, showing a person's arm and shoulder. On the left side of the image, there is a list of items in white text.
- Introduction
 - 3 elements
 - New media
 - Art Exhibition
 - Coffee Table Publication

why it is
needed

Islelanders is the culmination of over 10 years of reporting and photographing the story of irregular immigration to Malta, a tiny island in the centre of the Mediterranean. Malta is the southern-most state in Europe and directly in the path of the migration route from the shores of North Africa to Italy.

In their desperation to escape untenable conditions in their homeland, they embark on a route and in vessels that is at best treacherous. Even when disaster does not strike at sea, the condition of their travel is horrific. Their journeys of desperation represent one of the most horrific, cruel, yet important immigration routes of our time. Untold hundreds have died attempting to make the crossing – the central Mediterranean has become their graveyard.

Islelanders consists of three phases throughout 2014:

- 1) A blog sustained by a number of social media platforms
- 2) An Art Exhibition
- 3) Coffee Table Publication

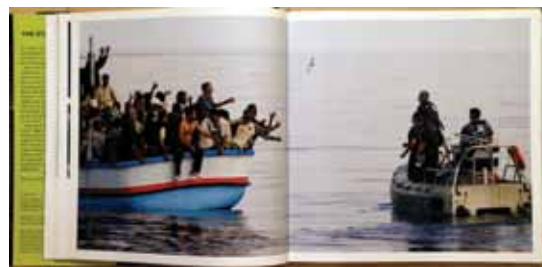
The project captures the journey of the immigrants that begins with their rescues far out at sea, to arrival on the island and life in the detention camps through to the open centres where they go to live once released from detention, and life in the community. If additional funding is obtained, one aspect of the project will focus on the experience of those immigrants who were granted the opportunity to resettle in continental Europe and in the United States. Each section of the project will describe my own experiences and observations while working on this project.

Over 18,000 immigrants and asylum seekers have come to Malta in the last ten years, of whom around 5,000 remain on the island, living in detention centres, open centres or in the community. The immigrants claim their intention was never to arrive in Malta - but rather go to Italy where they could easily move on within the European mainland. The influx of immigrants has tested the Maltese people's reputation as a hospitable people. It has also strained the resources of the Armed Forces of Malta, which is responsible for a rescue region stretching from Tunisia almost as far as Crete to the East, covering some 250,000 square kilometres.

My passion for this story has never faltered since first being exposed to the suffering of these peoples and the thinly veiled inhumanity in the reaction of first world nations. Even at times when many felt the arrival of immigrants no longer constituted news, I kept at it, drawn by the challenge of coming up with powerful images, trying to go beyond the news to show something different every time that would capture the depth of suffering and embody the vital importance of the overall story in human terms.



Reuters: Our World Now, Vol 1



Reuters: The State of the World



www.bbc.co.uk screenshot



3 elements

The topic of asylum and migration from Libya to Malta has been covered extensively in the last decade in the media. For next year’s European Parliament elections, migration is expected to be again a hot topic in the political discourse.

Islelanders aspires to depart from the usual narrative and to provide a new perspective to the subject. This is the first time in Malta that the topical themes of migration, transit and change will be explored to this extent – as a community focussed art project that goes beyond journalism and advocacy.

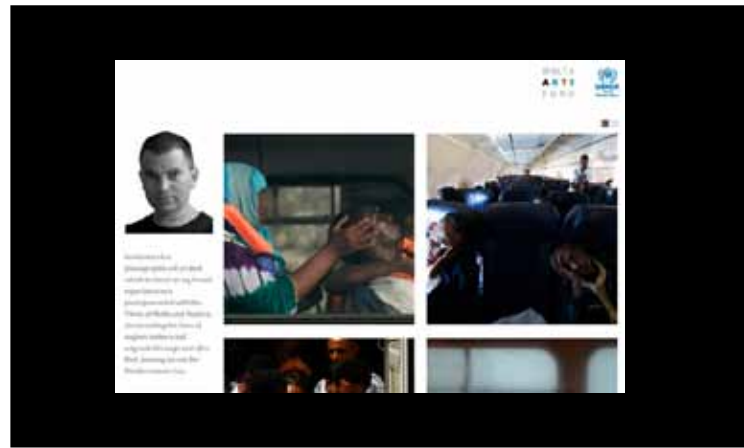
New Media	<p>A blog, www.islelanders.com, will be set-up to upload weekly photographic updates. The blog will have interactive online features to create debate. It will also have social media widgets (Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter) to reach a broader audience. The blog will also serve as a marketing tool for the second and third phase of the project: the Art Exhibition and Coffee Table Publication.</p> <p>The project has the support of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Office in Malta which is currently working with the Ministry of Education to develop a toolkit on asylum seekers and refugees for teachers to be used in schools in Malta and Gozo. The online portal may also provide teachers with a platform to discuss further the subject of asylum and migration with their students.</p> <p>The blog will be tablet and smart phone responsive.</p>
Art Exhibition	<p>Large and small scale photographic and multi-media works to be set-up at the Upper Galleries at St. James Cavalier in Valletta.</p> <p>During the run of the exhibition, seminars are planned with media, academia and students to address the subject from various angles. Embassies present in Malta will be invited and a visit by board members and staff of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) could also take place.</p>
Coffee table publication	<p>176 pages, 270 x 270 cm hard bound cover, photographic coffee table publication on the theme of transit of asylum seekers.</p> <p>The book will be the very first publication to explore such a theme from an artistic as well as a storytelling angle. The book will be sold through the Times of Malta website and local bookstores.</p>



New Media

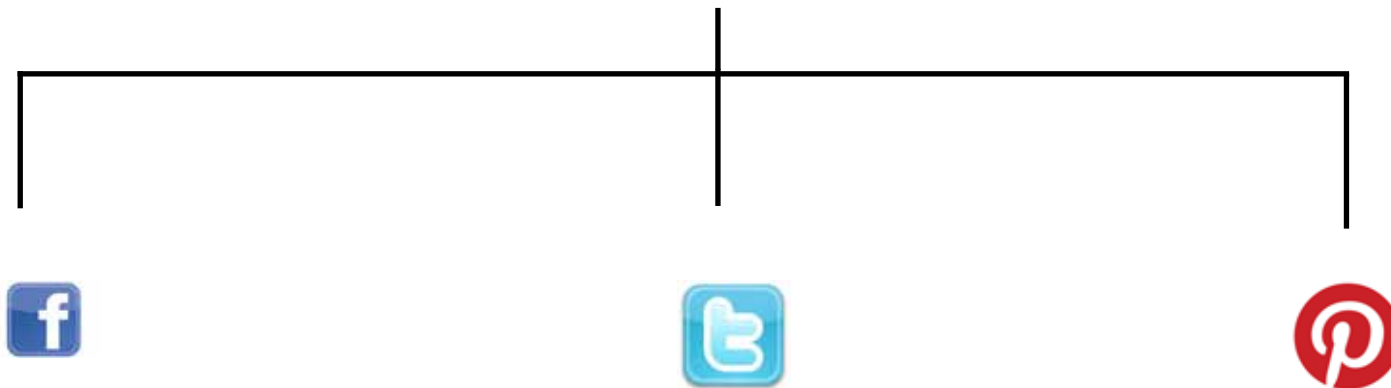
www.islelanders.com will be the project's online platform. It will use a template interface that will reflect the stylistic concept of the project: **Show – don't tell**. The template of choice is a full frame single column, full-width theme showcasing beautiful images, galleries, videos from edge to edge. The website is responsive and adapts to different screen sizes so that the website will work (and be optimized for) iPhones, iPads, Android and other mobile devices.

The blog, as well as the social media platforms, will be updated on a weekly basis. Content will be shared throughout the project's social media platforms. The blog will encourage participation through its comment section. It will also serve as the project online platform to provide information and also as a marketing tool in the build-up of Phase 2 & 3, the Art Exhibition and Coffee Table Publication, respectively.



Screenshots of www.islelanders.com

The blog will be supported by social media platforms which will enable the platform to reach out to a broader and diverse audience.



Other social media might be considered throughout 2014 depending on new trends in online marketing.



Art Exhibition

Concept: The concept of the exhibition will follow that of the project – letting the pictures tell the stories. Thus the emphasis will be on presenting artistic, compelling and thought-provoking photographs. Text will only be used to aid the context of the pictures.

The exhibition will aim to create an image-based narrative of the transit from Libya (the point of departure), through rescue operations to a new reality in Malta. The exhibition will provide the viewer with the human element behind the numbers and the political discourse.

The creative development process will also influence the content of the exhibition, it may follow a thematic or chronological order or a mixture of both. Innovative approaches for presenting photographic art may be considered. A professional curator will be employed to implement the exhibition.

Presentation of the Work: The exhibition will feature a number of large and small photographs on Fine Art High End Museum Baryta paper. Framing and size of the pictures will depend on the nature of the photographs, which will be an ongoing process throughout 2014. A proposed 40 prints are being planned for the exhibition.

Curator: The choice of curator for this exhibition is Fabrizio Mifsud Soler. Mr Mifsud Soler has worked with Lomographic Society International in Vienna and as a freelance curator on various photographic exhibitions. He will provide advice on the selection of the works, installation and printed paper.

Multimedia: With additional funds acquired, the exhibition would seek to explore the possibility of using projections and interactive elements such as touch screens to ascend interactive and different sense stimulation into the exhibition.

Seminar: A number of talks and debates on the art of photography and the theme of migration will be organized for the exhibition. Embassies present in Malta will be invited for the opening night and a visit by board members and staff of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) could also take place during the exhibition.

Since UNHCR is also collaborating with the Ministry for Education on a toolkit for teachers in Malta, it is also hoped the exhibition may also serve as an interactive tool for pupils and students to engage with the topics of art and migration. This will hopefully, contribute to reach a broader audience.

Exhibition Catalogue: A four-page exhibition leaflet will be printed for the exhibition. The leaflet will be given away for free to the public.

Marketing: A3/A4 posters will be printed and placed at St James Cavalier and in other strategic locations. The exhibition will be featured on the St James Cavalier, UNHCR and other external funding entities' webportals, newsrooms will be provided with press releases. Interviews can be given to the media.

Depending on funding other promotional material such as large printing formats and billboards will be explored.

The **www.islelanders.com** blog will play a crucial role in promoting the exhibition and subsequently the coffee table publication.

Follow up to the exhibition: I am currently in discussion with UNHCR to explore the possibility to take the exhibition outside of Malta with one of the possible venues being UNHCR's Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.



Coffee Table Publication

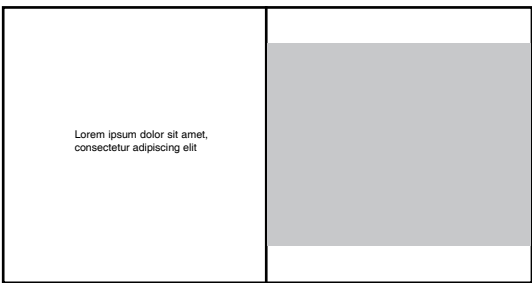
Concept: The coffee table publication is meant to be a photographic art publication; thus, emphasis will be made on presenting images. Text, in the form of ‘aside note’ and ‘narrative’, will be used to accompany, describe or accentuate the photographs. Main text will be reserved for the Foreword and Introduction. We plan on inviting Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, to write the Foreword.

Marketing: The blog and exhibition will serve as a marketing platform for the coffee table publication. Malta’s leading newspaper, the Times of Malta, as my employer and forming part as Progress Press, which is printing the book, have offered substantial free advertising in print and online.

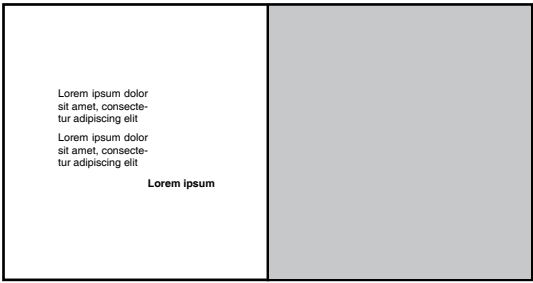
Copyright: I own the copyright to most of the pictures being used in the project, the remainder are jointly owned between myself and my employer, The Times of Malta.

Distribution: The publication will be distributed in local bookstores through Book Distributors Ltd. The book will also be sold privately from the exhibition venue. UNHCR will get 250 copies, which will be distributed free of charge to diplomatic corps, embassies etc. Another 100 copies will be donated to schools and libraries.

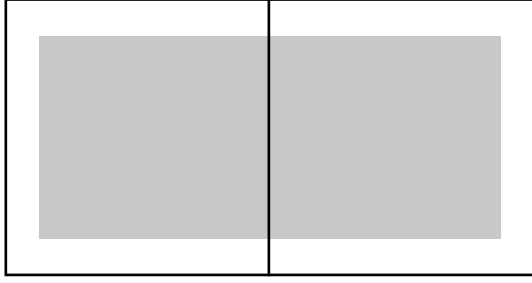
Sample concept of publication design:



Aside note: Text aimed to place picture with-in a certain context/ text that might be used to provoke reader



Narrative: Lengthier Text than ‘Aside’ designed to narrate story/quote of individual or episode



Full spread picture: Stand alone picture that covers both pages of book

Specifications:

Quantity : 1,500 copies

Size : 27.0 x 27.0 cm (long-edge binding)

Weight/copy : Approximately 1159 gsm

Jacket, 4 pages, 27.0 x 54.0 cm flat

Paper : Gloss coated paper, 170 gsm

Presswork : 4-colour process on front

Finishing : Laminating Gloss front

Endpapers, 8 pages

Paper : Uncoated, 120 gsm

Presswork : Without printing

Book, 176 pages

Paper : Matt coated paper, 170 gsm

Presswork : 4-colour process on front, 4-colour process on back

Finishing : Sewn, hardcased. Outer hardcase cover to be bound using geltex + gold blocking on spin

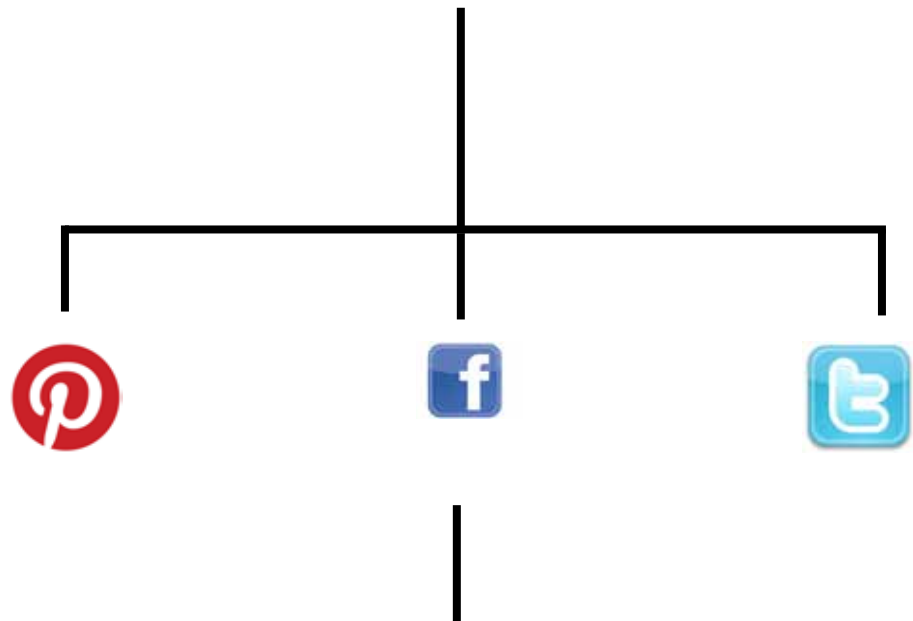


January 2014

www.Islelanders.com will be launched in January 2014. which will be followed by a public campaign on the social media. The blog will feature weekly updates.

During this period the Islelanders project will continue with the addition of more photographs of the migrant experience and refugees' interaction with Maltese society.

www.ISLELANDERS.com



December 2014

In December, large and small scale prints will be on display at the Upper Galleries of the St James Cavalier centre for Creativity. Seminars and visits will be organized.

A coffee table publication will be launched during the opening of the exhibition.

The Art Exhibition could be taken overseas. The blog will be kept online for the use of the public and teachers.



ISLELANDERS
Coffee Table Publication



CV

Darrin Zammit Lupi

With over sixteen years of news, reportage and sport photography for The Times of Malta and Reuters, I've gained extensive experience in shooting, editing and captioning news pictures.

EXPERIENCE

Editor Times Picture Annual
Allied Newspapers Ltd
2006 – Present (7 years)

Photographer
Thomson Reuters
1997 – Present (16 years)

Photojournalist
The Times of Malta
1996 – Present (17 years)

Photographer
The Malta Independent
April 1992- September 1992

Freelance
September 1992 – Present
Worked as a freelance photographer between 1993 and 1996, during which time I also financed my own trips to Albania (1993) and Bosnia (1995) with the backing of local newspapers.

EDUCATION

January 2009 - November 2010 - MA with Distinction in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography at the London College of Communication, University of the Arts,

London.

September 2006 Alumnus of the 1st Euro-Mediterranean Journalism Institute (2006) of the Greek Association for Atlantic & European Cooperation and the Fund for American Studies.

October 1993 to June 1994 - Sheffield College (Stradbroke Centre),UK

CLIENTS

I have also continued freelancing in my free time to the present day, working for a variety of local and foreign magazines, newspapers, publishers and corporate clients, including:

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
Marie Claire magazine
Malta International Airport
The Malta Council for Culture and the Arts
Action Images
International Herald Tribune
The New York Times
Le Monde
Sunday Times (UK)
Daily Mail
Daily Express
Sunday Express
The Sun
Panorama
Der Spiegel
Royal Academy of Music (UK)

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Greenpeace Mediterranean in Lebanon, Israel and Malta in 1999

World Population Foundation in South Africa in 2010

The African Jesuit AIDS Network in various parts of East, West and Central Africa in 2012 and 2013.

Also worked as official photographer for the President of Malta during state visits to Estonia, China, Greece, Cyprus and Poland.

Selective EXHIBITIONS

May 2011 - “Here and Now” - Group exhibition, Hotshoe Gallery, London

May 2011 – Valletta Photography Festival – 10 Maltese Contemporary Photographers

August 2009 – The Presence of Absence, solo exhibition about the L’Aquila earthquake at the Old University, Valletta, Malta.

October 2008 – Exhibition on irregular immigration at Palazzo Ferreria, Valletta, Malta.

June 2007 – Chosen to represent Malta at the exhibition “Latium between Europe and the Mediterranean” in Rieti, Italy, organised by Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2007 - 2008 - Reuters: “The State of the World”, global travelling exhibition.

January 2005 - Solo photography exhibition “A Touch of Malta”, part of the Cultural Year of the Ten festival in Berlin, Germany.

September 2004 – “Project Malta 24/7” - St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity, Valletta, Malta. A collective between 21 international photographers documenting 168 hours in the life of Malta. The exhibition has since travelled to Philadelphia (USA), Canberra (Australia) and Beijing (China).

January 2004 - Solo photography exhibition “Malta - the little island with a big heart” at European Commission Directorate of Employment and Social Affairs in Brussels, Belgium.

April 2003 – One of three Maltese photographers chosen to represent Malta at the exhibition “Man and Landscape, the ten new member states of the European Union” in Athens, Greece, on the occasion of the signing of the EU Accession Treaty.

Selective Book PUBLICATIONS

Malta 360 By Night

Malta 360 Welcome to Europe

Project Malta 24/7

The Times Picture Annual 2006

The Times Picture Annual 2007

The Times Picture Annual 2008

The Times Picture Annual 2009

The Times Picture Annual 2010

The Times Picture Annual 2011

The Times Picture Annual 2012

Portraits in Jazz

Reuters : The State of the World

Reuters : Our World Now Vol 1

A Day in The World

Shooting Society

Modernist Malta

Voices We Want More

Saint in the Making

In Paul’s Footsteps

Pope Benedict XVI Servant of the Truth

Dawn of the 21st Century

AWARDS

Winner of the Malta Journalism Awards in 1993 (Print Journalism Category) and in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2006 (Press Photography), and in 2005, 2007 and 2009 (Sport Photography).

Associateship of the Malta Institute of Professional Photographers, Associateship of Society of International Media and Press Photographers.

Runner-up in the 2008 OSCE photo contest “Waterways of Life” Special Award for Creativity in Photojournalism at the Malta Journalism Awards 2008.

Special Award for Creativity in Photojournalism at the Malta Journalism Awards 2008.

www.darrinzammitlupi.com