



**SATURDAY
4TH JUNE**

**FROM 20:00 ONWARDS
THE PALACE HOTEL**

— SLIEMA —

JOURNEY OF HOPE

A Fundraising Exhibition by Jesuit Refugee Service Malta
in Collaboration with Jean De La Valette Foundation

ABOUT THE EVENT



In 1980, Fr. Arrupe founded the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), which has since grown into an international organisation that serves over a million of refugees and forcibly displaced persons in camps, urban areas, war zones and detention centres in 45 countries. The mission of JRS is to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, who rank among the world's poorest and most vulnerable. JRS began its work in Malta in 1993. Over the years, JRS Malta expanded its services to provide legal and social services to asylum seekers and refugees in detention and local communities. JRS Malta is currently running several projects with a focus on integration and hospitality.



The Jean de la Valette Foundation for Art and Culture has become an important platform in recent years for cultural and artistic exchange between Malta and foreign countries. The Foundation created a structure where artists and the general public would meet.

60% of the proceeds raised from the purchase of the artworks will be used to sustain and develop JRS Malta's integration and hospitality projects, while 40% of the proceeds will be used to cover the artist's costs. 25% of the revenue generated from beverage and food will be used to support the Jean de la Valette Foundation in their ongoing effort to promote and raise public awareness of art and cultural diversity.

We invite you to begin a journey to find out more about JRS and the lives of the people whom we are serving and working with. Whilst thanking you for your support which makes it possible for us to continue to accompany, serve and defend refugees, we look forward to seeing you there.

Should you be interested in purchasing or reserving any of the artworks presented in this catalogue, please contact JRS Fundraising Officer Kyoko on kyoko@jrsmalta.org or by calling 2144 2751.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

JOHN W. ZHANG - A PERSECUTED ARTIST IN PURSUIT OF ART, FAITH AND FREEDOM



Born in Shanghai in 1955, John grew up in a working class family of six. Although he was forced into working for a steel factory at the age of 14, John never gave up on his pursuit of art and freedom. With a government quota allowing only one college candidate per factory at the time, John qualified through 3 stages of examination and became the only candidate out of over 10,000 employees qualified to enrol into the prestigious China Academy of Art. Unfortunately in the eyes of the Party Secretary of the factory John was not the right candidate because his "Westernised taste in art and music and superstitious belief in foreign religions such as Christianity present a threat to the Party". His enrolment letter, therefore, was kept in the office of the Party Secretary and he was told that he was disqualified due to his right-leaning background. After the Cultural Revolution he took private lessons from prominent Chinese painters Liu Haisu, Guan Liang and Yan Wenliang. Despite the harsh reality, John's unremitting efforts finally enabled him to open a gallery two decades later in 2000. The gallery frequently exhibited both secular and sacred artworks of various artists and held round table meetings among them. It did not take long for the Communist government to interfere. Not only was John's gallery shut down immediately but shortly afterwards, he also realized that his life and that of his family were in great danger when they survived a deliberately-planned car chase that led to his car crashing into the traffic barrier on a highway, leaving John and his wife severely injured. Although all of John's Christianity-themed paintings had been destroyed and life seemed hopeless at the time, the seeds of faith were planted in his despaired soul. In 2004, John and his family had no other choice but to escape from the endless persecutions targeting him, his wife and their daughter. Once they arrived safely in Malta, John's passion for art was once again rekindled.

ABOUT THE ARTWORKS

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, he pressed on towards the goal of rebuilding a life in Malta by picking up the paintbrush that was once dropped forcibly. John uses this paintbrush to lay down bright colours filled with hope and sorrowful shadows from the past that is now covered by the light of God's love. In his recent works John focused on bringing out the beauty of the Maltese islands and its unique cultural heritage using his signature brushwork of impressionism.

In 2015, John developed a new project based on an idea which had been brewing for the past few years. The entrepreneurial and eco-friendly concept – Thanksgiving Design – seeks to re-discover the original simplicity in our modern life and to preserve endangered nature and neglected handcraft art along with its technique. John uses second hand wooden furniture that is over 10 years old yet remains still intact. Each piece of furniture goes through a strict process of thorough wash, disinfection, renovation, creative design and professional hand painting.

Thanksgiving Design combines a fusion of Oriental and Western culture, which is vividly expressed through its design components and colour schemes. Due to the limitation in supply sources, each piece is therefore unique and unmatched. While you enjoy and appreciate them in the comfort of your own home, remember you have also preserved a piece of nature and art that will become a part of your timeless collection for many generations to come.

Therefore, John invites all those who cherish the same ideals to join him and support him on a journey to explore the harmony of nature and art.

**The artist may occasionally ask for buyer's kind cooperation to provide the artworks for his future exhibitions.*

Selection of the exhibiting items are curated by* **BELGRAVIA

AUCTION GALLERY

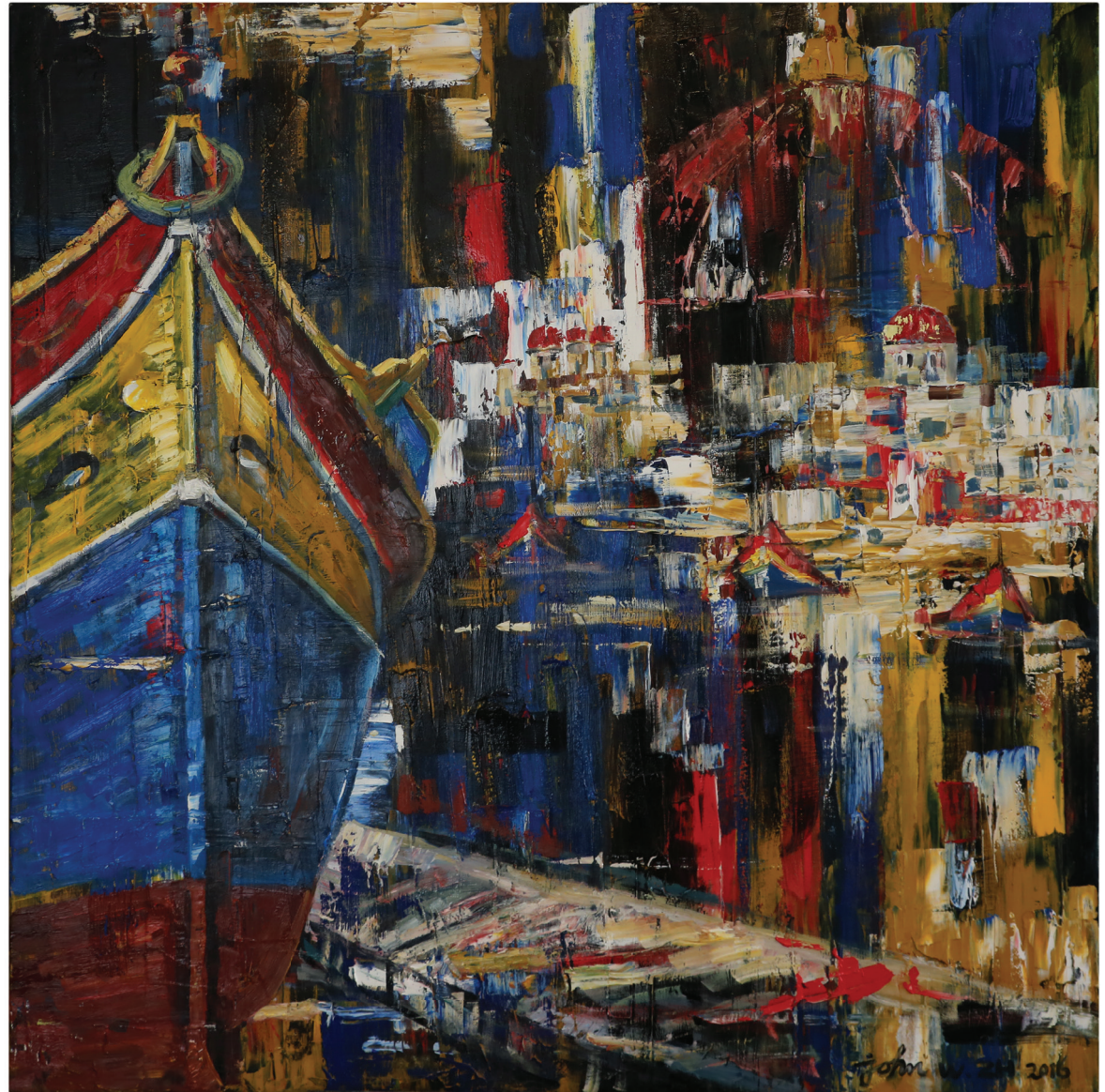
Lotus Fondness

60 x 92 (Incl. Frame)

€ 900



Paintings are measured in L x H, cm



Marsaxlokk

100 x 100

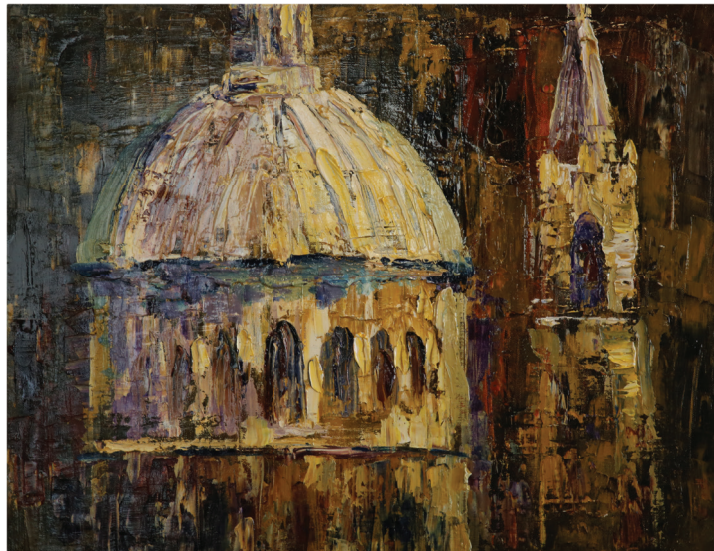
€ 1,200



Valletta Impression I

90 x 60

€ 900



Valletta Impression III

55 x 45

€ 800

Valletta Impression II

59 x 69 (Incl. Frame)

€ 900





Golden Autumn
60 x 70 (Incl. Frame)
€ 900



White Lilies
93 x 70 (Incl. Frame)
€ 1,200



Red Sea
90 x 74 (Incl. Frame)
€ 900



Maltese Dancers (Set of 2)
37 x 42, 40 x 47 (Incl. Frames)
€ 700



Azure Window
39 x 31 (Incl. Frame)
€ 400

Furniture artworks are measured in LxDxH, cm



Magnolia and Eastern Bluebird Chest Drawer

35 x 35 x 98

~~€ 750~~

€ 500



Lotus Fondness I - Chest Drawer

35 x 35 x 98

~~€ 750~~

€ 500



Bird of Paradise Chest Drawer

35 x 35 x 98

~~€ 750~~

€ 500



Lotus Fondness III - Cupboard

66 x 60 x 85

~~€ 1,000~~

€ 800

Lotus Fondness II - Side Table (Set of 2)

122 x 38 x 53

~~€ 1,200~~

€ 900





Iris and Orange-bellied Leaf Bird Coffee Table

125 x 42 x 52

~~€ 900~~

€ 700





Japanese Ukiyo-e Cabinet

99 x 37 x 80

~~€ 1,500~~

€ 1,200



White Cockatoo in Autumn Bedside Table

49 x 47 x 69

~~€ 650~~

€ 400



White Magnolia and Exotic Birds Cupboard

71 x 52 x 92

~~€ 1,500~~

€ 1,200





Boudoir Charm Side Table

43 x 38 x 75

~~€ 900~~

€ 700



The
PALACE
★★★★★

SAMUEL MEILAK
PHOTOGRAPHY


DELICATA
Family Winemaker
Since 1967


JRS
accompany · serve · advocate

BELGRAVIA
AUCTION GALLERY


BABEL
MARKETING

BIG LIGHT SOCIETY


Jean
De La
Valette
Foundation