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Malta: A Meeting Point
Maltese Works of Art to be Exhibited in Madrid's Royal Botanic Garden

The Malta Tourism Authority is proud to be supporting an art exhibition entitled '*Malta: Un Punto de Encuentro*' i.e., Malta: a meeting point which is being organized by the Embassy of Malta in Spain. The exhibition will be held from 21 September to 21 October 2021 at the Royal Botanic Garden of Madrid - a highly prestigious location in the heart of Madrid right between the Prado Museum and the *El Retiro* Park. The exhibition is being co-organized with the Malta Community of Illustrators and made possible through the support of the Malta Tourism Authority, ALSA & Malta Public Transport, Debono Group, Heritage Malta, and the Malta Arts Council.

The title of the exhibition is intended to explore the theme of Malta as a place which has acted as a meeting point under different circumstances over the years. Contemporarily the island is again a meeting point, this time of European values and ideas as a modern Member State of the European Union, but also physically as a safe place for tourism now that the international movement of people is gradually restarting.

The art to be exhibited will consist in 5 large images that will be displayed outdoor for a month at the Royal Botanic Garden. The artwork was selected through a public call done by the Malta Community of Illustrators who had the difficult task of sifting through beautiful pieces and identifying 5 posters which fit in the theme selected. The chosen artwork consists in the following:

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| 1. <i>Kappella tad-Duluri</i> by Derek Fenech | 4. <i>Balcon-Etre</i> by Ramon Fiott |
| 2. <i>Blurred Boundaries</i> by Karen Caruana | 5. <i>Maltesers</i> by Zack Ritchie |
| 3. <i>Coral Lagoon</i> by Te fit-Tazza | |

The exhibition will be launched on 21 September through a reception at the Royal Gardens marking Malta Independence Day. On top of the exhibition, the Embassy will be donating 3 endemic Maltese plants which will be planted in the Royal Garden, as a gesture of friendship and for visitors to enjoy. This was made possible thanks to support from ERA and the Argotti Botanic Centre - University of Malta.

"With the Royal Garden's prestigious location, receiving approximately 1000 visitors per day, the Embassy of Malta in Spain hopes that through the exhibition and the national day reception it will complement efforts in providing exposure to Malta in Spain on different levels. This includes promoting Malta as a destination not only for investment but also for tourism purposes. The latter being a key component of our economy but also an excellent vehicle in bringing the two countries closer with visitors obtaining first-hand information about Malta," Ambassador Daniel Azzopardi stated.

"Ever since Malta has started welcoming tourists again, whilst ensuring everyone's safety, we couldn't help but notice how Spain is, once again, one of our most important markets, therefore, as VisitMalta we find this exhibition, and its theme come at the right time, and they present us with an excellent opportunity to remind everyone of the excellent relations which both countries enjoy on various level, including diplomatic and on a people-to-people level. We hope these works of art will be enjoyed by all those who visit the iconic gardens and we look forward to continue welcoming Spanish visitors to Malta," Dr Gavin Gulia, Chairman of the MTA added.