



St Margaret's College Boys' Secondary

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St. Margaret College Senior Secondary School Verdala students come in touch with Baroque Art while venturing on a cultural excursion in Valletta

-14th March 2019-

On Thursday, 14th March 2019 a group of Form 4 students from St. Margaret College Senior Secondary School, Verdala, Cospicua had the opportunity to come in touch with Baroque Art while venturing on a cultural excursion in Valletta. This cultural excursion was organised by teacher Martin Azzopardi sdc in collaboration with the History Department teacher Miss Joanne Dalli.

Throughout this cultural excursion, students visited Our Lady of Victory Chapel and the National Museum of Fine Arts (now called the MUZA) which is situated in the former Auberge d'Italie in Merchant Street Valletta.

At Our Lady of Victory chapel students could refresh their understanding of Baroque architecture which consists of a threefold meaning:

*Baroque is **symmetrical** meaning that God Creator of Heaven and Earth is Perfect; Baroque is **decorative** meaning that our God is an Awesome God and Baroque has **light/strong colours** meaning that our God is the God of Jesus Christ - Light of the World.*

In the chapel students could compare the Medieval Iconography with Baroque paintings. In iconography images are nearly flat or two dimension and the beauty is in the inside and not in the outside. On the other hand Baroque paintings consist of three dimension images where now the artists focus on the exterior beauty leading to semi-nudist figures.

It was then in the National Museum of Fine Arts that students were able to come in touch with various work of art made by different painters and sculptors of the Baroque Era.

Here students were able to compare the paintings of the Dutch painter Mattias Stom or Stomer (1600-50) with that of Michelangelo di Merisi da Caravaggio. Thanks to the work of art by the French painter Jean Valentin de Boulogne (1601-32) students could admire the French style of Baroque art with a touch of Italian influence. Then focussing their attention on the famous painting of 'Jesus Christ holding the Cross' by Guido Reni (1575-1642) students could easily understand the meaning of the concept of 'pentimento' in art as in this painting the artist corrected a mistake of the position of the hand which can easily be seen if one looks carefully at the lower hand of Jesus holding the Cross. Unfortunately students could not admire the paintings by the Italian Baroque artist Mattia Preti (1613-99) as works are still in progress in the Museum and so some sections are not yet open to the public.

Then students had the chance to admire and compare baroque paintings by both local and internationally acclaimed artists like Antoine de Favray (1706-98), Francesco Zahra (1710-73) and Giuseppe Grech (1755-87).

While paying a short visit to the ground floor area students admired Modern Art and were able to compare the elegant/dramatic features of the Baroque with Modern Art features. The great work of art by two outstanding Maltese sculptors Melchiorre Gafà (1636–1667) and Antonio Sciortino (1879–1947) was highly admired by students.

The Malta National Museum of Fine Arts also has a collection of valuable local silverware, statues made of marble, bronze and wood, fine furniture objects and fine majolica pieces which were also noted by students.

Teacher Martin Azzopardi concluded saying: **“it is thanks to such opportunities that our students can come in touch with our Maltese heritage and be able to understand the meaning behind our work of art making our students critical thinkers and not just visual viewers”**.

Written by Camilleri Brennan Martina, Kaylee Falzon and Kirsten Farrugia.

Students at St. Margaret College Senior Secondary School, Verdala, Cospicua, Malta.

Photos description:

Photo 1 - St. Margaret College Senior Secondary School, Verdala, Cospicua students: Bonello Owen, Bugeja Aidan, Camilleri Brennan Martina, Falzon Kaylee, Farrugia Kirsten, Magro Luca, Megrahi Matthew, Schembri Kieran, Scicluna Raisa, Thomas Karolyn Joy, Vella Chantelle and Wilson Maria accompanied by with their teachers: Martin Azzopardi sdc and Miss Joanne Dalli come in touch with Baroque Art while venturing on a cultural excursion in Valletta – Group Photo at the Cospicua Dock, 14th March 2019.

Photo 3 - St. Margaret College Senior Secondary School, Verdala, Cospicua students: Bonello Owen, Bugeja Aidan, Camilleri Brennan Martina, Falzon Kaylee, Farrugia Kirsten, Magro Luca, Megrahi Matthew, Schembri Kieran, Scicluna Raisa, Thomas Karolyn Joy, Vella Chantelle and Wilson Maria accompanied by with their teachers: Martin Azzopardi sdc and Miss Joanne Dalli come in touch with Baroque Art while venturing on a cultural excursion in Valletta – Group Photo at Our Lady of Victory Chapel in Valletta, 14th March 2019.

Photo 5 - St. Margaret College Senior Secondary School, Verdala, Cospicua students: Bonello Owen, Bugeja Aidan, Camilleri Brennan Martina, Falzon Kaylee, Farrugia Kirsten, Magro Luca, Megrahi Matthew, Schembri Kieran, Scicluna Raisa, Thomas Karolyn Joy, Vella Chantelle and Wilson Maria accompanied by with their teachers: Martin Azzopardi sdc and Miss Joanne Dalli come in touch with Baroque Art while venturing on a cultural excursion in

Valletta – Group Photo at the National Museum of Fine Arts (The MUZA) in Valletta, 14th March 2019.

Photo 7 – St. Margaret College Senior Secondary School, Verdala, Cospicua students: Bonello Owen, Bugeja Aidan, Camilleri Brennan Martina, Falzon Kaylee, Farrugia Kirsten, Magro Luca, Megrabi Matthew, Schembri Kieran, Scicluna Raisa, Thomas Karolyn Joy, Vella Chantelle and Wilson Maria accompanied by with their teachers: Martin Azzopardi sdc and Miss Joanne Dalli come in touch with Baroque Art while venturing on a cultural excursion in Valletta – Group Photo at the National Museum of Fine Arts (The MUZA) in Valletta, 14th March 2019.