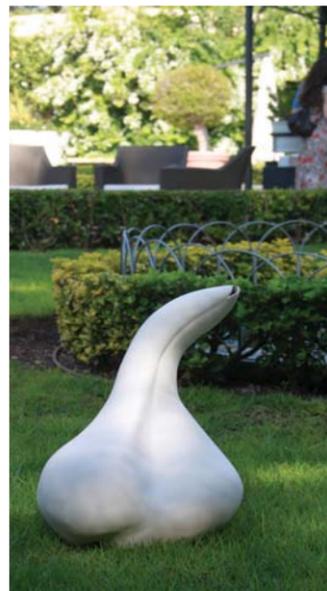


# Amelia Saint George

Sculptor **AMELIA SAINT GEORGE** speaks to **The Malta Independent on Sunday** about her art, how she came to settle in Valletta and about her current exhibition at Palazzo Parisio in Naxxar



Amelia (centre) talking with Wayne Marshall and Carina Camilleri



publish a book with Malta today it would be an 'Arts and Crafts Directory' with inspiring photography, of all the arts and crafts on the Island and how to use them in a traditional and contemporary setting. Arts and crafts should not get stuck in a rut; Malta has some exceptional crafts people, use them.

*Sculpting has become your medium of choice when creating art. Where did you learn to sculpt and what do you love about it the most?*

Many years ago when my breasts had not fallen onto my hips I was asked to be a model for a sculpting class, which I did. As I watched people work I thought "I should like to have a go at that." They gave me some clay to take home and that was the very beginning. I have never had lessons but I make my students work hard. There are many households in Malta who now have sculpted heads by their own hands and are very proud of them.

*Which sculptor(s) inspire you and why?*

For classic works Camille Claudel she is often referred to as Rodin's lover, in my opinion it is she that sculpted *The Kiss* and *Printemps (Spring)*. Camille Claudel's lift, line and stretch of the human line is exceptional. More contemporary works: Barbara Hepworth for her use of space in limited environments (shop fronts for example) and Brancusi, for beginning and stopping just at the right moment.

*Do you have any more exhibitions planned?*

Next exhibitions are Hampstead Affordable Art Fair from 1 to 4 November, with five works. Rountree Fine Art Ltd, Chelsea, with 1 work until Christmas. Carina Haslam, Great Missenden in mid November to Christmas for a mixed Christmas Exhibition with five works. All in England.

*What's your personal motto?*

I looked at my old school reports; I was the dunce of everything. So I couldn't be any worse! I work hard day by day and am very self-critical. I have learnt to be selective with other people's opinions.

Amelia Saint George has her latest collection displayed at Palazzo Parisio in Naxxar until Sunday 21 of October 2012, from 9am – 6pm daily. For more information you can call 9929-2488. This exhibition is organised by Lily Agius Gallery, and supported by Palazzo Parisio, TheSmartSkinClinic, Franks Wine Boutique and The Malta Independent on Sunday.



The real Sir Harry meeting his match



**Y**ou are from London, lived in France, and now also reside in Malta. Where do you most call home and why?

Malta, Malta, Malta I am visiting everywhere else I go. I thought I would miss Aix en Provence and I do; the town, the food markets are marvellous. In London I miss the museums, but then I spent so much time in them as it was perpetually raining. Malta has good culture but you must experiment and just get the tickets. I have more often than not been pleasantly surprised. The Malta Cultural month in July was an excellent mix from Bizet's *Carmen*, Jazz at Bridge Bar to local folk music. *Notte Bianca* is a wonderful way to discover what is behind all the closed doors. If Valletta is to be 2018 cultural city, there is plenty to see and plenty more to be restored and renovated in the next six years.

Due to a family tragedy my husband purposed we look at moving to Malta. I was against it: we bargained and he arranged a long week-end. He bargained again and brought a boat here (my passion) and we ended up living on the boat (he is good at bargaining). We had a Great Dane, Angelo at the time; not the most practical animal on a 39 foot sailing boat. However despite it begin my husband's dog I walked him in the morning over undeveloped Manuel Island and the evening on Gzira water front, sometimes walking as far as Portomaso. Little boys collected glass bottles and Angelo helped! Little children rode on his back! The ice-cream man gave him a spare comet to eat, the Maltese people talked, shifted up on the bench to give me a space and made me feel welcome.

My husband introduced the idea of looking for a house and gave me the responsibility of finding it; I choose Sliema but the Sliema of fifty years

ago! So it had to be Valletta, we have done up a dilapidated property, discovered the island on our hunts for this or that, got lost so many times that I still have a compass in the car. We now have an unusual house going in odd directions and I have a good space for a sculpture studio.

*How do you find Valletta as a place to live? And what do you think of it in comparison to other European cities? How do you think it could be improved?*

Valletta is a wonderful place to live; people talk to one another. As for being too quiet at night, just ask the Police station how many times I have called them. However the bar in question now turns its music off at eleven, but it will be excellent when the few loud people learn to have lots of fun without talking at the top of their voices. The comparison to other European cities is easy; you are fined heavily if you drop or leave any litter! All bins are on rubber tyre wheels (Venice) gas canisters have rubber bottoms at Burger King! Shutters have to be oiled; to name but a few. Pigeons are destroying Valletta and it would be a very good idea for the authorities to get rid of them before the European Parliament fines do.

*You have published an extensive number of interior design books. How did that begin? If you were to publish one today for Malta, what would the title be?*

Luckily I understood nothing about publishing, so I went to the biggest publishers telling them the book that I required to publish. Don't laugh it's called a USP unique selling point I was the first person to put kits in the book that you could cut out and begin work, still having a very pretty book with lots of inspiration. My first, *The Stencil Book*, sold a quarter of a million copies. If I were to

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