

Times of Dilemma

a participatory urban intervention
by transparadiso
(Barbara Holub/ Paul Rajakovics)

in *The Island is What the Sea Surrounds*
curated by Maren Richter
Valletta 2018 European Capital of Culture
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Times of Dilemma

The dream of utopia seems to be over, in spite of the many times we proclaim a desire for „change“. This general call for „change“, which aims at counteracting the growing inequality in our global system, addresses a wide range of contradictory interests. We do not want to defer utopias to some distant time or planet. Instead, we want to address them here and now by furthering the engagement with people to create visions and take action in their specific situations.

Workshops

“Times of Dilemma” makes use of the tradition of Għana for creating contemporary Għana dialogues addressing current conflicts. In July 2017 we organized two workshop sessions, for which we launched an open call for participation. We invited authors, Għana-singers (Għannejja), activists and experts from diverse backgrounds to discuss the contradictory interests between economical prosperity and regaining communal values and how to rediscover qualities, (hidden) potentials and poetics for living together. In this way we created a “situation” for the Maltese to take action.



workshops in July 2017, Exam Centre, Valletta

The contributions were based on the following questions:

what I miss
what I am afraid of losing
what I find problematic
what I treasure
what I am proud of
what I want to change.

Participants of the workshops

Joan Abela, Jean Paul Borg, Marie Briguglio, Stephan Buhagiar, Josephine Burden, Mikelina Camilleri (TA Xiggi), Vince Carabott (Bukku), Angelo Chetcuti (Sabu), Justine Cutajar, Anthony Carl Cutqar, Rachelle Deguara, Andrea Delicata, Antoine Foive, Erica Giusta, Marcia Grima, Reuben Grima, Simone Inguanez, Victor Jacono, Anthoney Karl (il-Pikkulin), Tom van Malderen, Duska Malesevic, Sarah Mallia, Josianne Micallef, Immanuel Mifsud, Alexandra Pace, James Pace, Victoria Pace, Rose Spagnol, Zeppi Spagnol, Saviour Tanti (il-Kanadiz), Anglu Theuma (il-Kina), Calcidon Vella (ta Mustacca), Emmanuel Vella, John Vella, Raphael Vella.

Installation

For the performances by the Għannejja transparadiso conceived two large megaphone-sculptures, offering a dialogical sound transfer of 320 meters between St. Michael's Counterguard, next to St. Roche Chapel and the only public land on the mostly privatized Manoel Island, which will be transformed into an exclusive new urban development for the rich. The locations relate to times of leprosy where the patients were quarantined in a hospital on Manoel Island. A priest would hold his prayers for the hospital from across the channel at St. Roche's Chapel. The dialogue from the two locations now addresses a plague of today, namely uncontrolled urban development in Malta.

These contemporary Għana dialogues reposition the (today under recognized) tradition of folk singing in "high culture", and explore Għana as artistic method for addressing conflicts in an open process, which highlights the potential of poetics as subtle means for activism. This is a big challenge for the authors as well as for the Għannejja, since Għana today still performed is usually "spirtu pront", which means spontaneous improvisation. To perform a scripted text asks the Għannejja to commit to a new format - and it equally required the confidence of the renowned Maltese authors to offer their texts to be transformed into a Għana dialogue.

In this way "Times of Dilemma" does not only address burning questions of the Maltese society, but also transgresses the borders of "high culture" and "folk culture" in a unique format.

"Times of Dilemma" is part of "The Island is What the Sea Surrounds" curated by Maren Richter.

Based on the contributions of the workshops texts were written by Maltese authors Jean Paul Borg, Jo Burden, Immanuel Mifsud, which were then transformed into contemporary Għana dialogues by the young Għannejja-Rapper Rachelle Deguara, and Għannejja I-Bukku Vince, Angelo Theuma, Mikelina, Josmick Agius.

Performers

Għannejja: Il-Bukku Vince, Angelo Theuma, Maria Agius ,Oħt iż -Żebbuġin', Josmick Agius, Rachelle Deguara

Guitarists: John Saliba, Victor Grech, Frans Cash

Għana dialogues between St. Michael's Counterguard/ St. Roche's Chapel and Manoel Island



The Island is What the Sea Surrounds

The title *Dal-Baħar Madwarha* is inspired by a quote from the work of philosopher Gilles Deleuze, ‘The island is what the sea surrounds’. This sets the tone for newly commissioned and existing pieces that explore the idea of “islandness” in playful and critical ways. It’s an artistic journey through the contemporary realities of the Maltese Islands, placing at their helm the Islands’ relationship with their closest neighbour – the Mediterranean Sea.

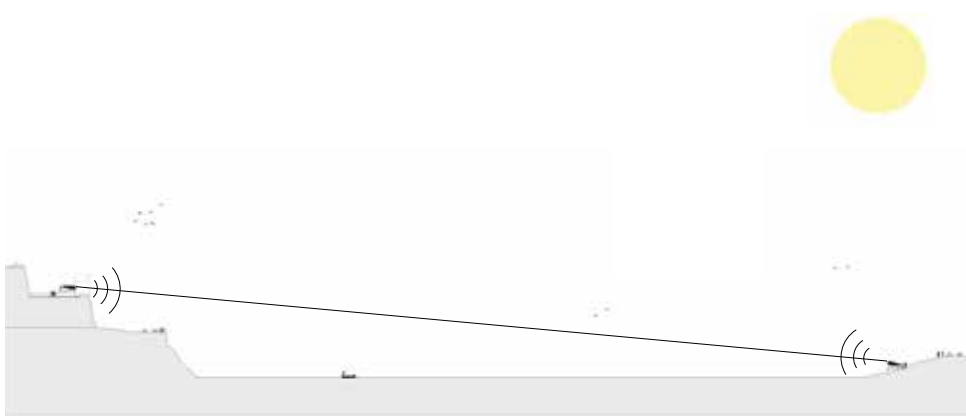
The exhibition re-traces borders, imagining new geographies that view the sea as fluid and transformable rather than another physical barrier between people, places and culture. In Richter’s words: “The multi-site programme invites international and Maltese artists to recast and respond to current and past urgencies and challenges, in which the Mediterranean Sea plays a significant role [...] The island is a mode of pausing, familiarised by a certain romanticism. Whereas the sea looms large in the language of our imaginations; it is a site of reflection, voyage, and volatile freedom.”

In the light of such thought-provoking inquiries, the exhibition explores the identity of our Islands within a wider global context, bringing creative, social and political visions of the Mediterranean to light through the region’s most iconic and enduring image: the deep blue sea.

Maren Richter



rehearsal of the Ghana dialogues at Ta’ Ganna Bar, Zejtun



Ghana dialogues between St. Michael’s Counterguard/ St.Roche’s Chapel and Manoel Island

An additional megaphone will be placed in the exhibition “The Island is What the Sea Surrounds” at the Exam Centre.

Is-Sistema Politika

The Political System

Vince: Kulhadd għandu opinjoni,
u tagħha għandu kull dritt,
Li jispjega lilu nnifsu
W minnha jagħmel profitt.

Everyone is entitled
to his own opinion,
express it, and from it
make a million.

Maria: Iżda b'din id-deċiżjoni
Lid-demokrazija radmu,
U għal ħobża ta' kuljum
Ilkoll noħorġu nahdmu.

But through this decision
they smothered democracy,
and to bring home the bacon
all of us have to go to work.

Vince: Id-deċiżjonijiet jittieħdu
Minn min aħna naġhtu l-vot,
Dawn sigurtà u ġustizzja
Lura lill-poplu jrodd.

Decisions are taken
by whom we put in power,
they ensure security,
justice for all.

Maria: Demokrazija li ssaħħaħ
Tagħti poter lill-maġġoranza,
U linja marginali
Fil-ġenb tal-minoranza.

A democracy which strengthens,
empowers the majority,
while weakening and neglecting
the minority.

Vince: Għalhekk jitwettqu l-protesti
W jinfethu l-każijiet,
Jistgħu jiġu għall-ġustizzja
F'diversi sitwazzjonijiet.

This is what kindles protests,
leads to court proceedings.
They can come at loggerheads
when they can't meet each other halfway.

Maria: Għall-infurzar tal-liġijiet
Li ma jarawx differenzi,
Għal ta' fl-ammont ta' fil-bwiet
Il-poplu jbati l-konsegwenzi.

On the enforcement of laws
honest and unbiased.
On how much they will pocket -
the people on the receiving end.

Vince: Reklami mhux biss iħajru
B'ħafna nies jinstigaw,
Iżda għandna bżonn iktar
Inkunu poplu li nikkritikaw.

We don't need more ads
to entice and encourage,
we need to find the courage
to criticize and change.

Maria: Jiena b'Malta tiegħi kburi,
Fejn jiena twelidt u kbirt,
Issa l-ġid nista' nesperjenza
Qabel fil-povertà skirt.

I'm proud of the country,
where I was bred and born,
now I can enjoy prosperity
while before, I suffered poverty.

Vince: Biċċa ħobż b'naqra butir
Qabel jiena kont niċċaħħad,
Il-bżonn kien biss prekarju
Min kulma ridt jew qatt xtaqt.

Years ago, bread and butter
were deemed a luxury,
satisfying your basic needs
depended on the winds of fate.

Maria: Mintoff beda l-benefiċċji
Li minnhom ingawdu lkoll,
Qabel kellna t-tarzna
U biha kilna biċċa ħobż.

Mintoff introduced benefits,
advantageous to us all,
before we had the dockyard
for our daily bread, toiled hard.

Vince: Il-politikanti importanti
Biex ir-rotta tkompli ddrur,
Iqisu l-ġid ta' pajjiżhom
U li nieshom kuntenti żgur.

Politicians are important
for us to survive,
they strive to ensure prosperity
to please the people.

Maria: Iżda dan mhux dejjem iseħħ
Għax aħna differenti minn xulxin,
Opinjonijiet u battibekki
Dan li jagħmilna bnedmin.

But this isn't always the case,
as no man is like another,
opinions and disputes
a reflection of our nature.

Vince: Storja ta' filosofija
Gejja minn mijiet ta' snin,
Politikanti li l-ħaq q jieħdu
Salib biesu mis-snin bikrin.

The story of a philosophy
reaching way back into history,
of politicians who vow to endorse justice
and righteousness by kissing the cross.

Maria: Il-Kostituzzjoni tagħna
Titlob minna dan l-aġir,
Li kulhadd iwettaq xogħlu
W ma jistennix tifhir.

This conduct is demanded
by our country's constitution,
and we don't expect any praise
for our contribution.

Vince: Il-bidla importanti
Magħha gġib il-progress,
Jekk ma jkunx hemm il-bidla
Kollox jibqa' l-istess.

Change is important
through it we all progress,
if we don't want to stagnate
our priorities we must redress.

Maria: 'Il quddiem irridu nimxu
ħalli lkoll navanzaw,
U naraw lil uliedna
Fl-edukazzjoni jistinkaw.

To develop and advance,
we must work together,
while seeing our children
at school, doing better.

Vince: Moħħna lkoll inserrħu
Li pajjiżna pajjiż sigur,
Libertà tal-espressjoni
Biex inwasslu l-messaġġ żgur.

We put our mind at rest
our country's a safe place,
for everyone's opinion
we have ample space.

Maria: U għal min ma jridx jisma'
W irid biss jagħmel fattih,
U mbaġħad tarah il-ġustizzja
W quddiem Alla jbatih.

And those who ignore this
and would do as they see fit,
are punished on judgment day
and their misdeeds before all admit.

L-Iżvilupp f'Żoni Urbani

Development in Urban Areas

Jomike:	Minn dal-lok illum se nghannu Dwar xi haġa tant magħrufa, Storja antika, xejn ġdid fiha, Dwar battalja għa mitlufa. ¹	Here we are today, set to sing a song of a well-known issue: a siege set up to fail.	Izda s-sid jiġi jitmiejjel Jahseb biss kif se jistagħna. ¹⁰	Alas, the owner is deaf bar to the clang of cascading cash.
	Il-battalja kontra r-regħba Ta' min butu mhuwiex fqir, Li jrid aktar ma' li għandu, Jghix il-hajja ta' hanżir. ²	A siege against the greed of those who bitterly crave a more opulent cornucopia, while wallowing in wealth.	Angelo: Qabel kont niftaħ għajnejja Malli tibda tielgħa x-xemx, Imma llum harsti fil-ġebel Għax hliief bini kbir ma hemmx! ¹¹	Yesterday, I feasted my eyes on dawn's golden promises. Today I wake up to staring at hulking pillars of hopeless concrete.
Angelo:	Il-kburija oħt is-supervja Għalhekk kburi jien m'iniex, In-nies li rashom wisq iebsa Bħall-franka jew briksa Inġliż. ³	Pride and haughtiness are siblings, and I don't share their blood; they who are so bloody pig-headed traded swine for stone.	Kont inxomm ir-riħa tfewwah Ta' xi tina w tal-ħarrub, Kont nissemma' lill-għasafar Li b'għanjiethom jgħaxxqu l-qlub. ¹²	I used to get dazed by the sandy scent of fig trees, the cleansing carob; by the tweeting cacophony in twigs.
	Il-bini qed jibqa' jogħla Dejjem iktar vertikali, U addiju l-veduta Tax-xatt minflok bini għali. ⁴	And as building unabashedly snake their way skywards, seascapes are slowly swapped for sheer unsustainability.	Jomike: Imbagħad meta mlew il-gżira Ma baqax aktar irkejjen, Qalu: "nibdew nibnu fl-gholi Biex is-sema wkoll jiżzejjen". ¹³	And then, when construction spread covering all like a cancerous fog, they turned to the free firmament building a towering tangle of thorns.
Jomike:	Is-saħħa u l-edukazzjoni Qegħdin hemm għal kulhadd, Tal-Gvern jew tal-Knisja It-tagħlim jingħad. ⁵	Here health and education benefit the whole nation, citizens are schooled in senate and sanctuary.	Ġol-għalqa spiss iġġerrejna Sa ma dalam u l-ħin sar, Inġbarna, lissinna t-talba, Inġbarna koll għewwa d-dar.	In the fields, we merrily ran till prayer and sleep cocooned the evening's amber glow in night's sweet solace.
	Sejrin nghannu b'weġġha f'qalbna Għal dak kollu l'hawn madwarna, U bid-dmugħ f'għajnejna nħarsu Għal mod kif qed tintemm darna. ⁶	Mired in anguish, we're going to sing for all that encompasses us. Eyes glazed with tears, we look around at how home is being reduced to rubble.	Angelo: Veduti jpxaxuk sbuhija Jekk tbexxaq il-gallarija, Tista' toghxa bil-veduta Ebda ostaklu ma jgħattiha.	When you threw the balcony window open you were graced by views brimming with beauty, unfurling like magic carpets with nothing masking their magnificence.
Angelo:	Meta kont daqsxejn ta' tifel Kont immur fl-għalqa ta' hdejna, Halli nilgħab mal-ħbieb tiegħi Imma llum araw f'xiex ġejna. ⁷	When I was yet a little boy, I dallied away the hours in fields with friends; today I can only reminisce.	Tmur mixja tista' titpaxxa Bil-ġenna fuq din l-art, Malta gżira liema bħalha La shana hafna u lanqas bard.	While taking a stroll, you couldn't help but feel blessed you were born in such a heavenly abode.
	Sparixxiet l-għalqa fejn lghabna, Sparixxew anki l-widien, U minflok tellghu bħal torri, Hekk għoġobhom lis-sidien. ⁸	These fields where we played have faded into memory. So have the valleys. Instead they erected a tower. Because, hey why not?	Jomike: Ir-rotta trid min idawwarha Li mhuwiex il-magħġuranza, Wiehed b'kemxa jxaħħam Jaffaččjak mingħajr kirjanza.	The country needs a captain and the majority is not qualified to steer. One blatantly bribes another, and strips off all sense of courtesy.
Jomike:	Għalxejn tlabna kollna ħniena, Għalxejn tlabna kollna ħrara, Għalxejn bdejna nispegawlihom Li jikkawżaw il-ħsara. ⁹	We prayed for mercy, with fervour. We strived to convince them of the damage they do, but our prayers were stifled by obstinacy.	L-għalqa li temgħet lil familti Issa l-għelieqi tan-nahat, F'qasir żmien ġew mibnija Kilna minn fuqhom għal snin shaħ.	This field fed my family for so long, others graced us with generosity and green. All lost: crushed under concrete.
	Din il-ħsara mhux għalina 'zda żgur għall-ulied tagħna,	The consequences of this calamity will snowball on the morrow.	Angelo: Ilbieraħ il-permess twaħħal Ta' min hu dan ma nafux, Pprovajt nistaqsi dwaru 'zda dettalji ma sabux.	They hung the permit yesterday: owner's identity unknown. When I asked for answers I was handed a blank page.

	Post li gojjell għall-qalbi, Memorji tat-tfulija, Noli w ballun fih lghabna W hafna logħob ferrihija.	This place is a repository of memories. I recall playing hide-and-peek, stuffed full of joy.	Angelo: Emnuni ma nafx x'se nagħmel Biex inkun onest, mifxul, Għax in-nifs bħal beda jbatti, Qisni pitiross maqful. ¹⁴	Believe me. I feel confused, and don't know what to do. I'm gasping for freedom like a newly-caged bird.
Jomike:	Il-post issa wisq imbiegħed Għax dan 'qas biss jeżisti, Nista' biss nirrakkonta, Nipprova niftakar u nirsisti.	The place we speak of is now situated in history. I can all but recite, recall and grapple with greed.	Blokka f'blokka qisna f'gaġġa Dan jgħidulu l-progress, Il-progress ma nafx xi jfisser Għax mhux għal kulhadd l-istess. ¹⁵	Life in concrete blocks is labelled progress these days, yet the meaning of progress is relative and I know not what it means.
	Jeżisti biss fil-memorji li konna nqattgħu flimkien, nintilfu qalb dawn l-għelieqi w qalb it-toroq imwarrbin.	It only materialises in memories of the hours we spent together, getting lost amid these fields and forsaken pathways.	Jomike: Hemm għal min ifisser kemxa Tarahom jgħoddu kull kantun, Ma' kull krejn, ma' kull filata, Is-sinjur sar sinjurun. ¹⁶	There are those for whom progress translates to cash: with every complete construction, reaching new levels of wealth.
Angelo:	Issa d-dell qed jgħattini Mill-għalqa l-egzost inxomm, Klawstrofobja madwari Għall-qalbi l-ħdura nżomm.	Shadows seek to cover me now, while the field belches putrid fumes. Claustrophobia spread far and wide, love for nature stuck close to my heart.	Hemm għal min ifisser kemxa, Lejl u nhar jikkalkulaw, Jogħrku jdejhomm b'kull tikħila, Jigħdu lejhom, jiffangaw. ¹⁷	There are those who spend their days and nights contemplating, rubbing their plaster-stained hands; feeding their insatiable appetite.
	Is-sjesta spiss posponuta Għax norqod ma nistax, Bil-hsejjes minn ġot-tieqa ¶lief swidija ma narax.	I started postponing siesta when the din from outside, did in my sleep. Can't see a thing, darkness abides.	Angelo: Imma mbagħad hawn min hu bħali: ¶tuta zghira, ma tiswiex, Nista' ndum inhambaq, ngħajjat, Għax jistmawni qisni hniex. ¹⁸	Then there are people like me; petty pieces on a board, complaining to no avail, treated with indifference.
Jomike:	Hafna iktar soqfa vojta Milli nies bla kenn ta' saqaf, Imbagħad isiru l-iżviluppi Kullimkien u bla rażan.	There are more shelters seeking people than people seeking shelter, and still nothing halts urbanization's relentless bulldozing.	Il-battalja ġà mitlufa Għax iż-zghir mħuwiex bħall-kbir, Itaptulek tnejn fuq dahrek U li jkollu jsir isir.	The battle's already lost, as the poor are bested by the rich. They give you a pat on the back, and turn to put their plans into effect.
	Kaxxi tal-konkrit impoġġija 'hna lkoll nistgħu naraw, B'arkitettura ta' kafkaf It-toroq jiddominaw.	Streets are now packed with box-like buildings: an urban jungle dominated by lacklustre architecture.	Jomike: U jekk tgerger jgħajtu miegħek U jgħidulek negattiv, U jgħidulek kemm se ngawdu Iżda qatt ma jgħidu kif. ¹⁹	And if you simply dare to grumble, they try to silence you, calling you a pessimist; boasting of the rewards we'll reap, while refraining from explaining how.
Angelo:	Tradizzjonijiet meqruda Nistgħu ngħidu b'dispjaċir, Modi alternattivi ngawdu Bħal li nharsu lejn xi skrijn.	With a heavy heart I've bid tradition farewell, as progress heralds the tyranny of the screen.	Jomike: Jien m'għandix il-flus biex nibni, Jiena qatt m'jien se nistagħna, Għandi biss dil-ħaġa għażiża, Għandi l-għerf f'forma ta' għana. ²⁰	I'm not a rich man, and I bet I'll never be. All I have is this dear thing: wisdom in the form of a song.
	Traffiku li johonqok U li jahlliek il-hin, B'rota tibza' wkoll tazżarda W tal-muturi mgarrfin.	We spend hours stuck in traffic, killing time yet riding a bike one'd risk having no more time to kill.	Minn dal-lok ġejna w għannejna Din il-għanja, dit-tnehida, Għax dil-gżira ta' wliedna W ħadd minna m'huwa sidha. ²¹	From here we came to perform this sad song, for this land belongs to our children and to none of us in particular.
Jomike:	Kulhadd jigrri bil-karozzi, Illum għandhom għal waħda tnejn, U biex Malta b'tal-linja taqsam Iddum iktar minn saġhtejn.	Everybody owns a car, most even have two. Crossing the island in a bus takes more time than a trip to Mars.	Angelo: Insibu modi alternattivi Ta' żvilupp sostenibbli, Progress li hu bil-għaqal, In-natura mhix riversibbli.	We must tap into alternative methods, seek to use our resources sustainably, show respect to Mother Nature, stop reaching for more than we need.
	It-turiżmu fattur importanti Li pajjiżna jimxi bih, Jekk 'l Malta ħa noqtlu Dal-fattur ħadd ma jgawdih.	Tourism is a key factor, a pillar keeping Malta steady and strong; eating away her natural allure, will also erode her foundations.		

Il-Hajja fil-Komunità

Life in the Community

Angelo:	Il-komunità haġa wahda Għax niddependu minn xulxin, il-komunità importanti naqsmu flimkien hafna ħin.	Community is like a chain: we all depend on each other. Community is important we get to know one another.	Jomike:	Prijoritajiet li foloz Ma nagħrfux il-verità, Insibu mitt aljenazzjoni Nitilfu l-opportunità.	Embracing false priorities, we fail to recognise the truth, espousing alienation we sabotage our opportunity.
Jomike:	U hallik mill-istudju, binti ejja fuq il-għatba, iġġebbed siġġu miegħek issa ħin li ngħidu t-talba.	Take a break from your studies my daughter, join us outside. Bring a chair along with you, evening beckons us for vespers.	Angelo:	Biex napprezzaw il-hajja, Il-ġid tal-komunità, Il-frott li kapaċi toffri, Il-ġid tas-sema u l-art.	To appreciate life, the wealth of the community, what it can offer us food for body and soul.
Angelo:	F'dan il-villagġ ċkejken kulhadd jaf lil kulhadd, bil-ġirien l-ikbar spalla ugwali u hadd minn taht.	This small village is one big family, tyranny is abhorred, comfort encouraged.	Jomike:	Stejjer li maż-żmien mitlufa Djalogi shaħ mitlufin, Li ntradmu mal-ghaġġla Xi mkien tul iż-żmien.	Stories that got lost in tides of time, dialogues swept in dark, forgotten corners.
Jomike:	L-intoppi huma komuni għaliex aħn' umani, insolvuhom bir-raġuni w ma nagħmlux bħall-annimali.	Conflicts are common, we're only human. We solve them sensibly, not with forked tongues and fists.	Angelo:	L-injuranza hi l-ghar marda min imaqdar u ma japprezzax, dak li haddieħor jagħmel miegħu b'ghajnejh magħluqa ma jafdax.	There's no malaise worse than ignorance, than those who despise and fail to appreciate the good deeds bestowed upon them - they know not the meaning of blind faith.
Angelo:	L-imħabba doża importanti w rispett ma jonqos qatt, reciproka r-relazzjoni go pajjiżna 'l kulhadd ġrat.	Love is an important dose, so is a helping of respect, the relationship is mutual, everybody has experienced it.	Jomike:	In-nies li kapaċi taħseb thaddem mohħha u tużah, tikkritika u tissaħħaħ ma tqisx kollox li hu fatt.	People who pause to think before taking a step, criticize, and develop by asking why's that?
Jomike:	Il-wirt kulturali ngħallmu lil uliedna tal-futur, dawra-durella-onġi-o-ngħella w it-tifsira tinftiem zgur.	Our cultural heritage, we teach to future generations, with patience and persistence, driving the meaning home.	Angelo:	Inżommu qrib il-familjali l-ħbieb veri u t-talb, nuru ħniena mal-proxxmu min ta' ġewwa jew immigrant.	We should love those closest to us, be kind with those who aren't be them locals or foreigners.
Angelo:	Socjetà li trid tadatta Tadatta maż-zminijiet, Kulhadd jevolvi u jinbidel Qatt tinsa t-tradizzjonijiet.	A society which seeks to adapt keeps up with time, but while you evolve and grow, try not to uproot tradition.	Jomike:	Storja twila li tixhed min aħna u minn fejn ġejjin, Pawlu tagħna l'illumina raġġ ta' dawl lill-midimbin.	Ours is a story reaching way back in time: a testimony of our identity, our origins. St. Paul, we implore you set us on a sane future.
Jomike:	L-istejjer tat-tfal jilgħbu Fit-toroq jitlajjaw, Issa storbbi tal-magni w ta' karożzi jistartjaw.	The stories of children playing, loitering about in the streets, now cut short by roaring machinery and vehicles set going.	Angelo:	Ngħożżu li hu neċessarju u nqassmu l-ħin sew, il-komunità li għandha x'toffri l-wirt tagħna li qatt ma ninsew.	We must stick to what is relevant, use our time wisely, cherish the community enriching our lives, keep our heritage alive.
Angelo:	Wisq imghaġġla dil-hajja Nlaħħqu m'Alla u max-Xitan, U x' jifdal fil-qalba? Ħafna ġenn u ħafna ingann.	Life is moving way to fast We strive to do so much in so little time And what are we left with? A lot of chaos and deception.	Jomike:	Dan hu l-individwalizmu l-kapitalizmu u l-konsum, qed iċċaħħad lill-bniedem minn did-doża ta' kuljum.	This is individualism. Capitalism and consumerism are denying us this daily dose.

L-Edukazzjoni u l-Kultura

Education and Culture

Vince:	Bżonnjuża l-edukazzjoni trid tibda mis-snin bikrin, ħalli l-ġenerazzjoni l-ġdida iżzomm id-drawwiet hajjin.	Education is necessary especially to children, so that future generations keep traditions alive.	Maria:	Il-kultura tal-istorja ta' ġenerazzjonijiet shaħ, wiehed li jirakkonta dwar il-foqra jew ix-xħaħ.	The culture of the history of a stream of generations, of those who lack everything, those have everything; and want more.
Maria:	Il-manjieri importanti u li kulhadd jaqdi dmiru, l-etikett u l-ubbidjenza w li kulhadd jobdi lil sidu.	Manners are important, so is fulfilling your duty, etiquette and obedience and obeying your master.	Vince:	L-istorja tibqa' tagħqad ma ma tmut qatt, m'għandhiex lok tintilef għax minn fommna tingħad.	History is an ever-evolving, never-ending story. It's shall never dwindle as long as we keep it alive.
Vince:	U li titgħallem tistaqsi w għalkollox ma toqgħodx, u l-kritika bżonnjuża w tfittex ħafna u ma torqodx.	That you learn to doubt and stand up for your rights, being critical is necessary, as is being thorough and active.	Maria:	Ir-reliġjon u l-istorja f'Malta huma dominanti, għandna l-isbaħ poeżiji w l-istoriċi brillanti.	Religion and history are predominant in Malta, we weave the finest verses, have brilliant historians.
Maria:	Il-kotba importanti għax minnhom johroġ l-għerf, l-ikbar ħabib tal-bniedem taqra ktieb ma jkollox telf.	Books are important, repositories of wisdom, and man's best friend. Reading is investing in your future.	Vince:	Tal-Gimgha l-Kbira naraw il-purċissjoni, ir-raħal flimkien jingabar għal jum ta' adorazzjoni.	On Good Friday we see the religious procession, all of us congregate for a day of adoration.
Vince:	U dejjem tipprova tifhem u mhux biss toqgħod tisma', lil dak li jkun tagħdru w tibagħtu quddies jisma'.	Always seek to understand not only to listen to others' agonies. Be compassionate towards them and lead them on the path to God.	Maria:	Il-knisja fin-nofs tar-raħal bl-ilsien tagħna nqimuh, in-nies kollha miġbura w bl-ghola ġieħ infahħruh.	At church, in the village core we worship Him with words, all gathered in unison, we offer Him the highest praises.
Maria:	Xi parir tissuggerilu li jkun għal ġid tiegħu dejjem, il-mibegħda neliminawha, nifhmu u mhux bħal bhejjem.	Give them counsel, knowing it will embellish their lives, dispose of hatred cherish love and understanding.	Vince:	Skola li b'xejn pprovduta għal min irid jitgħallem, w ekonomija ta' xogħol għal min irid jaħdem.	Schools are free for who wants to learn, jobs are available, for who wants to work.
Vince:	Hemm modi differenti differenti għat-tagħlim, minn wara bank l-iskola jew niġru qalb it-tiċlim.	There is more than one route to learning, students can either spend days sitting on school benches, or they can learn in everyday life.	Maria:	Maltin dejjem ġenerużi minn dejjem nies qalbiena, sa minn ġol-preistorja ġenerużi w ferrieħa.	We were always renowned for our generosity, our bravery, benevolent and joyous since the days of prehistory.
Maria:	Minn kollox hemm x'titgħallem, it-tagħlim informali, nara n-nanna titwi l-ħwejjeġ jonkella xi borma tagħli.	We can learn something from anything as long as we keep a sharp eye: nanna gingerly folding clothes, the pot boiling slowly on the stove.	Vince:	Karatteristiċi Maltin b'tagħna kburin l-identità, imħaddna mill-poplu bil-lingwa li hi unika.	Such characteristics make us all proud, as does our identity, our language to us is bound.
Vince:	Nifthu l-bibien tagħna għall-globalizzazzjoni, u mhux biss minn din il-gżira s-socjalizzazzjoni.	We must welcome globalisation, opportunities from a foreign nation, and seek to extend our love to strangers seeking safety.	Maria:	Nibzghu għall-preżervazzjoni nibzghu għall-awtentiċità, biex dak li huwa Malti ma nħalluh jintilef qatt.	We must endeavour to preserve what makes Maltese, safeguard our identity, our authenticity.

Times of Dilemma is part of The Island is What the Sea Surrounds (curated by Maren Richter), Valletta 2018 European Capital of Culture:

Exhibition: March 25–May 27, 2018

Location: Exam Centre

Times of Dilemma/ Performances:

Dates: March 25, 2018 (4 pm); May 27 and July 1, 2018.

Locations: St.Michael's Counterguard/ St.Roche's Chapel (entrance to parking lot from Great Siege Road) and Manoel Island (next to Lazzaretto)



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