

Art

# Of skies and seas

Louis Laganà

**T**HE common thread in Alexia Coppini's paintings is the representation of big skies and vast seas. Nothing intellectual or conceptual, just the representation of the natural environment in the most tranquil manner.

Each painting speaks for itself. Ms Coppini lives by the sea, in fact her studio is on the Sliema promenade and therefore she is easily absorbed by the beauty of the sea and the natural environment. Ms Coppini's paintings evoke a sense of the spiritual as well as the fluid nature of the sea, and the light in the air gives a sense of timelessness.

Ms Coppini is versatile in various subjects, including portraits, still life and animals. She also has a great passion to draw and paint images from marine and landscape. The natural environment is a great source of inspiration.

In her latest solo exhibition, titled Happy Birthday, Ms Coppini is showing the public a series of seascapes, skies and fascinating images of bulls and

dragonflies. I believe that her work creates the effect of a "cinemascope" of nature in which abstraction occurs naturally. The artist attempts to convey the overall atmosphere of an area. Her paintings are vistas or windows to the outside world.

This is the projection of the "self" through vivid depictions of vast seas, some of them calm and others with surfing tides expressing turbulence. We know that in various cultural traditions the sea is considered the source of life. It stimulates imagination and enhances imaginative expression in art, poetry and mythology. Stormy seas represent emotional upheavals, whereas calm seas evoke a sense of peace of mind. It is also stated that to return to the sea means to return to the mother's womb, which is also an encounter between life and death.

In one of her paintings called Heaven we see a circular composition of clouds in the form of a mandala (Indian Sanskrit for a circular, often spiraling pattern). This is not the first time that Ms Coppini created a composition consisting of a formation of clouds in the sky in circular form. In psychological terms it represents the symbolical aspect of wholeness

or self-representation of the process called individuation - becoming a single, homogenous being, self-realisation. In other words it is this individuation which consists of the bringing together of the conscious and the unconscious.

The light in some of her sky paintings is bright and pure and the scene almost seems to vibrate. Sometimes there is no horizon in others when she captures the line which separates the sea and the sky, a sense of drama is felt. Ms Coppini's panoramic canvases of the sea are set either early in the morning or sometimes late in the evening especially during that magical time of the day when the colours are dynamic and range between the darkest darks and the lightest lights.

Her attitude to art and to creativity is twofold: she has an intimate eye for what is beautiful and appealing in nature and an emotional connection with the world. In this exhibition we find the images of a bull which is a symbol of power and energy: it is a symbol found in many epochs and mythological cycles. It is an archetypal image that reached heights of importance and dominated the iconography of various cultures signifying

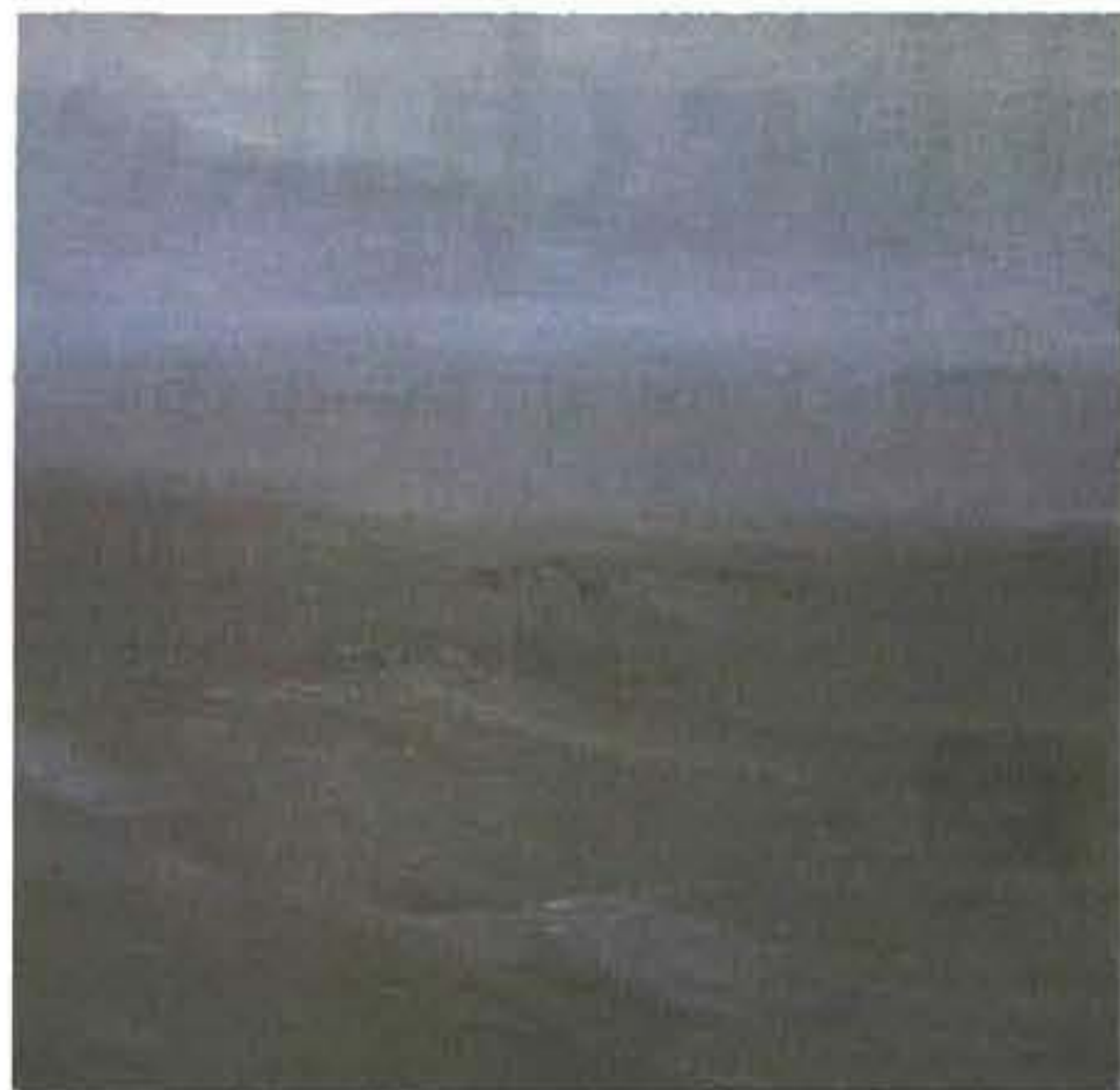
sexuality and regeneration as well as man's spiritual nature over his bestiality. As previously stated, other symbolic images in this art show include the dragonfly which is also a reference to the symbol of transformation and life's ever-constant process of change. Precisely, the artist is in constant change and the dragonfly sparks the creative power of her imagination. The artist is in fact living in an aura of great fantasy.

Happy Birthday embodies an important phase in the artist's life. Through her art Ms Coppini lives in

Till May 9

## Happy Birthday

Alexia Coppini is showing her latest series of paintings at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry. See also page 19



## The deep blue sea



Dragonflies and bulls and sea and sky observations are the themes of the 70 works in Alexia Coppini's 'Happy Birthday' exhibition which opens on Saturday. The exhibition is being held at The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, Republic Street, Valletta, until May 9. Opening hours are from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. [www.pini-design.com](http://www.pini-design.com).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday is Alexia Coppini's second solo art exhibition, depicting no less than 70 works, ranging from sea and sky observations to a collection of dragon flies and bulls! The calm, peaceful and sheer force of nature is forever a source of inspiration to Alexia, who through her paintings, brings to life the beauty around us that so often goes unnoticed. The exhibition is being held at the Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise, Valletta, from April 25 to May 9. [www.pini-design.com](http://www.pini-design.com)



**press**  
alexia coppini

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Happy Birthday opens on 25 April at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry.

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