



Light Series #1-5

A series of truly beautiful art work created by Angelika Boeck and Sergio Muscat who were selected after an international call for an artist residency at Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre Malta, as part of Valletta 2018 European Capital of Culture activities. The artists worked as part of a team comprising of the artists themselves, Pam Baldacchino (resident artist SAMOC), Anne Laenen (AiR programme co-ordinator) and me.

In preparation, the artists interviewed both patients and staff. As a team, we immersed ourselves in experiences of sites through which we could connect with Maltese roots and identity; the Hal-Saflieni Hypogeum – a 6,000 year-old underground prehistoric site, the megalithic temples of Ggantija dating, back to 3,600 BC and St Paul's Catacombs – a burial ground from Punic and Roman times. We visited museums and local artists, immersed ourselves in old gardens, and went down to the sea.

Throughout there was also the process of reflection and self-reflexivity as, together, we sifted through layers of meaning and experience. The process evolved into a lived experience of deeper understanding of the existential nature of life and death, love and loss, temporality and continuity and timelessness, as together, and each within him/herself, we contemplated the mystery of our humanity. The artists very ably translated the experience into Light Series #1-5.

On account of the powerful symbolism behind the work, I am able to use the postcards as part of my therapy with patients and their families. The postcards offer a concrete form of the relational process that is a holding force as therapist, patient and family members grapple with intense emotions of suffering, loss, love and hope. The postcards are then given to the clients as a tangible representation of the profound process having taken place, so that they can take away the holding presence with them.

Dr Benna Chase

Principal Psychologist SAMOC

22nd November 2018