



# **KantaKantun Bieb Bieb RESOURCE PACK**

*Produced by Alexander Vella Gregory & Charlo Briguglio  
Commissioned by ŽiguŽajg*

A Music and Architecture Project, presented as  
an art installation for all ages during ŽiguŽajg 2018

## The Project

*KantaKantun Bieb Bieb* is an education project that brings together music and architecture. Using sound and space as creative tools, artists and musicians have worked with four groups of students from four different schools to explore the two disciplines and create their own imaginary spaces. Using the concept of 'a door' as a starting point, *KantaKantun Bieb Bieb* examines doors as points of access and obstacles, as portals to other countries, and as symbols for various ideas.

The first part of the project consisted of a tour of various doors around Malta. These ranged from small domestic doors, to triumphal gates (e.g. De Rohan Gate in Ғaḏ-Żebbuġ), to trans-national doors like the Malta International Airport and the Grand Harbour. In the second part students then reflected on the different spaces they visited and created a soundscape inspired by those spaces. It was at this point that sound artist Yasmin Kuymizakis joined the project to create one big soundscape that merged all four soundscapes from the participating schools. In the final part, four artists worked with each school, and together they created four different installations inspired by doors. These installations were then brought together as one big installation for the 2018 edition of *ŽiguŽajg International Children's Festival* curated by Lisa Gwen Baldacchino.

## The Installation



The installation brings together the work of all those that have been involved in the process. Elisa von Brockdorff's miniature houses use old books and cardboard to create an entire village full of doors and possibilities (San Ġorġ Preca Middle School, Ғamrun). Ritty Tacsum worked on the Maltese '*ħasira*' and keys as symbols that represent stories hidden behind each door (St Theresa College, Middle School, Ta' Paris). Sara Maria Scicluna's 'wall of doors' invites us to explore a multitude of doors each leading to new and wonderful destinations (St Thomas More College, Middle School, Ғal Tarxien). The fourth and final installation by Roderick Camilleri is a mobile - a kinetic sculpture that explores the movement attached to doors (St Nicholas College, Middle School, Rabat). Throughout the installation you can listen to the soundscape created by Yasmin Kuymizakis, created using the students' own soundscapes.

## TEAM & THEMES



### **Alexander Vella Gregory, Project Leader (Music)**

'Architecture is frozen music' - this quote, often attributed to Goethe, embodies a multi-dimensional relationship between these two disciplines. Music and architecture are both experienced through time by listening or by walking through a space. Moreover, one can look at the musician as someone who manipulates sound and an architect as someone who manipulates space.

*KantaKantun* is an ongoing education project, commissioned by Valletta 2018 Foundation, that engages Middle School students in an exciting exploration of sound and space.



### **Charlo Briguglio, Project Leader (Architecture)**

Architecture explores the space around us, and is designed in accordance to human requirements. In most cases the students link architecture to a very narrow spectrum, mainly housing projects. However, architecture covers a much broader spectrum from schools, to factories, gardens and even roads. This project helps the student to think about the connection between these two fields of study, through different workshops. The outcome of the workshops is translated into an installation, which is built and

displayed in each school.

As an architect and civil engineer, I take care of the architecture part of the project along with the design of the installation.- *Charlo Briguglio, Project Leader (architecture)*



### **Lisa Gwen Baldacchino, Curator**

A door is a door. But is it *just* a door? Symbolising a threshold and a border between spaces, doors are gateways to other worlds, they are portals of discovery.

Taking the door as a point of departure, as an architectural element which is characteristic of Maltese architecture, this project comprises four very different interpretations of what doors represent, how they are used, as well as what they contain. Four artists working with groups of young teens each presented them with a unique vision, which underwent a thorough process, and upon which each of the artists then intervened to a minimal degree; the final product a co-creation brought about through collaboration.

## THE CREATORS



### **Yasmin Kuymizakis, Sound Artist**

Soundscape compositions enable us to connect to the unique sonic characteristics of a space. The soundscapes allow the listener to develop a further understanding to the history and meaning behind the doors. In a world that is mostly perceived with our eyes, the compositions encourage us to listen and imagine. They help us engage with the visual elements.

### **Elisa von Brockdorff, Visual Artist**

'In the same way we open doors to enter a space, books also invite us into another world through their words.'



### **Ritty Tacsum, Visual Artist**

Imagine you found a key, what would this key open: a house? a castle? a safety box? And who it belongs to? For this installation, participants were asked to select a key at random, and using their preferred medium, visualise, what it is that it opens, or gives access to. The final works were then connected to the key using a string, and attached to a typical Maltese 'ñasira'.

### **Sarah Maria Scicluna, Visual Artist**

The main idea was to use the door as a symbol of possibilities which lie ahead for the students; their hopes, dreams and plans for their future. This allowed them to think about this, and then design and execute the door which reflects this. The doors were made out of cardboard, a material which is easy to manipulate and thus better reflects their intentions. The doors were decorated in bright colours and using a variety of beads, sequins and other materials.



### **Roderick Camilleri, Visual Artist**

The artwork explores and represents opposing ideas of movement and stillness as expressed by doors and gates. The students who participated in this workshop were introduced to kinetic sculptures.

In the ensuing discussion they developed a series of drawings, presenting their own interpretations linked to gates, accesses and doors which were painted onto recycled aluminium sheets. The works were cut and assembled together to create a mobile (a moving sculpture), symbolising many imaginative interpretations

inspired by local historic gates and iconic doors.

# Beyond the Door... School Activities

## Personal Maps

Take a blank piece of paper and lay it out horizontally (landscape orientation). On the left hand side draw your Home. On the right draw your School. Where do you pass from on your way to school? Draw a map that takes you from your home to your school and highlight the buildings and spaces that you see along the way.

For example: churches, gardens, shops with an interesting facade, particular houses, etc.

## Virtual Doors

Why not create your own doors? Draw a door that leads to your imaginary 'house'....well it can be a cozy little fairytale house, or a big imposing castle or simply a portal to a wonderful new world!

It can be a simple paper and pencil drawing or you could go wild and use colours, or even glue coloured paper shapes and other small decorative objects! And why not write a short story telling us where your door leads to?



## **Beyond the Door... Family Activities**

### **Door Spotting**

Take a walking trip around your neighbourhood and see if you can spot wonderful doors! Some might be colourful...others can be imposing...while some can be simply curious or just plain fun! And why not share it with everyone else? Get your parent / guardian to share it on social media using the hashtags #maltadoors and #kantakantun and #žigužajg!

### **Door Art**

Is there a door at home you could spice up a bit? Draw bright colours or maybe decorated with cardboard shapes or other fun objects? Why not create your own wonderful door! It can be a gate in a garden or yard or even a doorway drawn on a wall!

NOTE: ALWAYS ask for permission from your parent / guardian...and get them to help too!

