To commemorate this milestone MITA has commissioned 12 students from the MCAST Art and Design Institute to propose and design a set of 12 murals. This booklet is dedicated to these works of art by providing an overview of the students’ inspirations and creations.
The Lecturer: Kane Cali

Maltese artist/designer Kane Cali takes pride in specialising in the use of glass and ceramics as his primary mediums.

Having completed his studies in ceramics and glass at the Royal College of Art, he has settled back on the island where he is currently lecturing in ceramics at MCAST Art and Design.

MCAST: Institute for the Creative Arts

When MCAST was founded in 2001, the Institute of Art and Design was one of the first institutions to be integrated in the College, through the amalgamation of two state schools. Since then, it has expanded to offer many new vocational education opportunities in 3D design, fine arts, graphic design, interactive media, media (moving image), and photography.

The Institute collaborates with local industries to give students the opportunity to practise what they learn by working on art, design and media assignments requested by real clients. These assignments are completed in state-of-the-art studios and workshops, under the guidance of an experienced team of lecturers.
Statement on work: This concept revolves around the idea of a cyber-profile. Today, nearly everyone maintains has a personal profile, with their data and information, being for work, or personal reasons such as connecting with friends. This is due to continuous improvement in technology, allowing us to be connected any time, anywhere.

But this is only what till now is possible. We are driven to further innovations and this might lead us to imagine what is possible in the near future. We might even witness the introduction of a cybernetic clone which possesses our intellect, in order to maintain our daily routine through the web.

In Cyber Profile Mural, Luca tried to visualise the idea of two opposing figures with the difference of one being cybernetically enhanced. He imagined a metamorphosis of technology and human, taking place in actual life. The two figures are looking opposite to each other, but still connected with a single brain, unifying our biologic life with the cyber one.
AYLA BAILEY

Born in 1994, Ayla Bailey is an art student who is studying at the MCAST Institute of Art and Design and is currently in her first year of a Higher National Diploma in Fine Arts.

Ayla's main interest is sculpture because it allows her to experiment with many different materials. Her style is mainly figurative with a contemporary twist.

Ayla's future goals are to become a full time sculptor and be active in the local and international art scene.

Statement on work: The piece is mainly inspired from the future possibilities of MITA and its progress but also technology in general. People are starting to interact more with technology and at the end it will be integrated into all facets of human life.

The face is looking forward, symbolising the future and all the problems that can be overcome with time. There are 25 geometric triangles surrounding the face which symbolises MITA's 25th year anniversary and the geometric triangle is an appropriate icon to represent technology. Together, the face and the geometric triangles represent MITA's past and future combined.

Raku stoneware was used to make the mural. The piece has been finished using a white glaze, which brings out extra detail in the piece. Ayla used both a matt and glossy finish on the geometric triangles to create a contrast and a play with shadows similar to the effect light has on a diamond.
Statement on work: The mural is inspired by the values of MITA: People, Empowerment, Professionalism, Client Focus and Continuous Improvement. Each part of the mural is an abstract interpretation of each value.

The whole composition is made out of 25 pieces to commemorate MITA’s 25th anniversary. The depiction of the first value placed at the bottom of the mural and the last value at the top right-hand corner are similar in their characteristics so as to show that these values are like a chain, depicting growth and development and that even through the vicissitude of daily challenges, the Agency remains focused through its sound and conscious behavioural values.

Black is used in high contrast, representing all that MITA stands for, as well as the indispensable service which the Agency provides the country through management and guidance of the fast paced and complex changes of technology today.

Marlon Chircop is currently studying fine arts at MCAST Institute of Art and Design. His interest in art started at a young age and he took his first art lessons during his secondary education. His art varies from current subjects to light humour. Whilst studying at MCAST, he is developing his skills by working with a variety of mediums such as stone, ceramics, oil paints and more.

His other interests apart from creating art are music, reading, traveling and contemporary theatre. These interests are his main inspiration and motivation.

After he finishes his studies, Marlon is looking to continue developing himself and share his experiences through art.
Statement on work: Being inspired by the MITA Data Centre, Kelsey developed her sketches in an abstract form from the geometric shapes used on the façade. Furthering her research on MITA, she used the Agency’s three drivers for her final piece for inspiration: Transformation, Innovation and Excellence.

One of the most important factors MITA uses is data; researching deep information and different types of graphics and vectors, Kelsey came up with the idea of combining the shape of MITA’s building and data vectors and graphics all together.

The ceramic sculpture’s form indicates the fast traveling of data and pieces of data joining together to form the abstract piece. She used the same blue colour scheme as the glass shades in the building and metal rods join the ceramic pieces together, representing the data progress and improvement by time.

Kelsey May Connor

Kelsey May Connor is a 22 year old student studying Higher National Diploma in Fine Arts at the MCAST Art & Design Institute. Working on a range of different types of art but mostly focusing on realism.

Kelsey also works with So Galerie as an assistant teacher, teaching arts and crafts to young students.

As for the future, Kelsey plans to finish her degree and works as a full time teacher and also, further her studies and modeling abroad.
Graziella Cutajar

Graziella Cutajar, a 19 year old student currently studying Higher National Diploma in Fine Arts at MCAST. During the past years art has been her main subject to focus on leading her to do her A’ levels. She is interested in expanding her knowledge around different cultural art forms and travelling the world to see it.

Although a student, her current occupation is working at the airport, which shows her great love towards aviation. Graziella describes the future as a mystery and one should live it day by day and accept it as a challenge to build on oneself.

Statement on work: Graziella describes her mural as an abstract motherboard. Since MITA is very much related to computers and technology, the direction of this experimentation was towards the physical components of what makes technology.

The concept behind it was from the inner rooting of the fibre glass leading her to experiment with the design. She added the fact that MITA is commemorating its 25th anniversary, so in her relief there are 25 objects in total. Her division of the lines and circles where carefully placed to balance out the relief from all sides.

Graziella’s chosen materials are a mix of stone and ceramics. Her base layer is made in stone with the lines embedded to create dimension whilst the circles are made in ceramics, which are fixed on top of the base. She has a total of five pieces of stone placed near each other. Careful attention was given to the lines which continue on throughout another piece of stone to make it connect with each other and give it that sense of unity.
Statement on work: The inspiration for this piece came from the sci-fi film, The Matrix. In this film, Morpheus, one of the main protagonists, offers Neo, the main character, a choice of two pills, one red and one blue. Choosing the red pill, resulted in enduring the painful truth about how the true world works, along with the abnormalities of the matrix system. Whereas choosing the blue pill resulted in being allowed to continue living in blissful ignorance, total oblivion with regards to knowledge of the realities of the world and the matrix system portrayed in the film.

Building on this concept, Hannah applied it to her piece in such a way as to explain why people working at MITA chose to be there. The piece is divided into two using a colour scheme whereby the blue side embraces simplicity, showing the profile of a person sleeping and portraying the negligent part of society. The red side consists of intricately sculpted wires, conveying knowledge, intelligence and the drive to know more. MITA is represented as the red side owing to their desire to increase their capacity and knowledge in their technological field.
Statement on work: ‘Gradient’ represents how MITA continuously evolved, through the application of formal qualities and aesthetics of any technological concept. The piece also focuses on the values that MITA adheres to. Compiled of 25 modular and complimentary pieces, the collective mural represents the unifying homogeneous values between MITA’s representatives and clientele.

Advances in technology is a constant and being that MITA continuously implements these changes, this progression was the inspiration to create a graduation in tone, and texture. As the piece becomes more streamline, one might consider this as a representation of the evolution of MITA from MSU and MITTS.
Statement on work: ‘SyNAPS Chips’ is a look into the future. IBM has created a chip that works like a brain. It is made up of synapses and neurons. The modern day computer works like the left side of the brain which is all about logic, language and analytical thinking. On the other hand, technology lacks the abilities of the right side of the brain which is the creative and expressive side.

This invention is still striving to have the ability to act like the human brain. They have learnt that by joining thousands of SyNAPS chips together they will eventually contain the same capacity and power of the human brain, which is phenomenal.

In her work Emma combined many SyNAPS chips together in order to build upon the idea that one day these chips would allow technology to act like the human brain. The central part is an insight of the human brain. They are neurons which transmit information through electric and chemical signals. As this work forms part of the commemoration of MITA’s 25th anniversary, 25 SyNAP chips are glazed black. These chips are concentrated at the bottom and diffuse upwards symbolising MITA’s progress to where it is today.
Statement on work: When designing her mural, Joanna drew inspiration from the formula that concerns speed, distance and time. The idea was that technology and internet services create shortcuts in our increasingly busy lives by increasing the speed in which we transfer information whilst covering more distance (work, research, etc) in less time.

So whilst the stairs go up and down to symbolise the increase and decrease, they simultaneously identify themselves as the progression and advance that MITA has seen over the years. The dynamic composition of staircases was inspired by a surrealist approach to a landscape. Much like the symbolism of dreams and surrealism, the minimalistic, wall hanging design conveys concepts through the indirect symbols embedded within the piece itself.

Aesthetically, the stairs create an interesting play on shadow and light, creating a satisfying contrast that pulls the human eye and displays a good sense of depth independent of colour.

Joanna Portelli (b. 1993) is a student of the fine arts institute of MCAST with ambitious plans of pursuing a future career in the arts. She believes that art is not merely a job or a hobby, but a lifestyle, that artists cannot separate themselves from. Her sculpting experience is a relatively new one, as she truly began sculpting in 2014/15 when she created a sculpture in stone designed for Mount Carmel Hospital, Malta.

The 21 year old student is mostly passionate about drawing and painting subjects she devotes a lot of her thought to. She is inspired by books, films, characters, music and any experiences that can make her reflect deeply. During her spare time, Joanna enjoys educating herself in aspects of fields which are relevant to her own.
Statement on work: Dominick's main inspiration for this mural came from today’s wide use of fibre optics in our homes, from telephones, cable TV to internet access and the method by which information travels in the form of light through each individual fibre optic as internal reflections. The internal reflections form angles which he then abstracted and turned into triangles.

The triangles were then physically made in white earthenware clay, glazed with a gloss finish in order for the light to hit the glossy surface of each triangle, creating a shimmering effect representing the travelling information in the form of light on each individual surface.

In a way he considers his piece to be interactive as its constantly changing along with the different light settings in which it is placed. To achieve the level of precision that the whole piece required, the whole mural was constructed on 3D software and later each individual triangle was cut out with a laser cutter.
Statement on work: For all that we need to know about the world, we just need to look to nature. We humans are a young species in the world and have only been around for 200,000 years. When compared to the nautilus which has existed for 500 million years, we have several years of knowledge to catch up on.

The nautilus cross section, whose spiral conforms to the Fibonacci sequence, is just one of the many examples of the presence of mathematical sequences found in nature. The Fibonacci sequence, known universally as the golden ratio, has long been believed to be the decipher to one of the biggest dilemmas in the mathematical world, the secret of the sequence of the prime numbers. If the cypher of the prediction of sequential prime numbers is cracked, we can see destruction in the way we do business over the internet. The discovery of the solution in nature already exists as is seen by the cicadas of east North America whose life cycle is based on prime number sequences.

We just need to look to and thus after nature.
Statement on work: The stone sculpture is a representation of MITA's function between technology and the people who make use of its services. It incorporates the human and technological aspects of the Agency as it brings the two together. The fingerprint represents MITA's involvement with storing personal data from all sectors of government which is then incorporated with straight lines inspired from motherboard technology.

The fingerprint is one of the most individualistic and personal signature of each and every human being. The fingerprint is made in a way that the lines are constantly shifting up and down, representing the ever-changing face of technology and its dynamics. This dynamic approach also represents the Agency’s goals and transformation for the future as it would never stop changing and continue digitalising data which makes it more accessible to people - keeping data at the tips of peoples' fingers, one might say.

The work is kept as smooth as possible to show current technology trends which is all about smooth, sleek surfaces. The material also creates a contrast between the subject it represents as stone is something very natural and rugged while the subject of the sculpture is that of innovation and all that is man made, small and delicate.

Juanita Vassallo

Juanita was born in 1996. She started showing an interest in art during her secondary school education at St. Monica School, B’Kara. She then continued developing her artistic skills at Giovanni Higher Secondary School, before joining MCAST for a Higher National Diploma in Fine Arts.

She is interested in history, especially in the history of art, and takes part in re-enactment events. This inspires her to delve in old traditions in art and helps her understand the context of art done back then, such as techniques, media and subject matters. Juanita aspires to develop her skills, style and knowledge of art further. She is working her way to becoming a teacher in visual arts.