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Cover picture

Krizi (Maltese for Crisis) by Anton Calleja, acrylic on board, 120 × 80 cm.

Anton has always been sensitive to mental health issues. He meticulously explores the inner emotions of how people on the cusp of suicide feel by talking to professionals and patients alike. His ability to feel for the marginalised and misunderstood is epitomised in his etched painting which is the official icon for Fondazzjoni Sokkors Fil-Pront. The latter, an upcoming Maltese Foundation, aims to support people in crisis, providing immediate help to suicidal people and their loved ones. In his self-portrait, Calleja graphically personifies the inner despair and helplessness of those who die a lonely death. Working closely with the Foundation's founder, Psychiatrist Dr. Mark Xuereb, Calleja aspires to sensitise the public to this pain. His portrait captures the last moments of a man who lost hope. The Foundation's objective is to instil hope by setting up a dedicated national crisis line and ancillary services on the Mediterranean Island to prevent this trans-generational legacy of pain and suffering.

Calleja, an acclaimed Maltese artist and teacher, studied drawing and etching in Perugia and design in Glasgow. He produces exhibitions portraying human sorrow.

We are always looking for interesting and visually appealing images for the cover of the Journal and would welcome suggestions or pictures, which should be sent to Dr Allan Beveridge, British Journal of Psychiatry, 21 Prescott Street, London, E1 8BB, UK or bjp@rcpsych.ac.uk.

