

# MALTA AS METAPHOR

Myriam Thyes, 2008

4 / 8 channel video installation (octagon with 4 different video sources, each used twice) . Video DV Pal, 20:45 (loop), stereo.

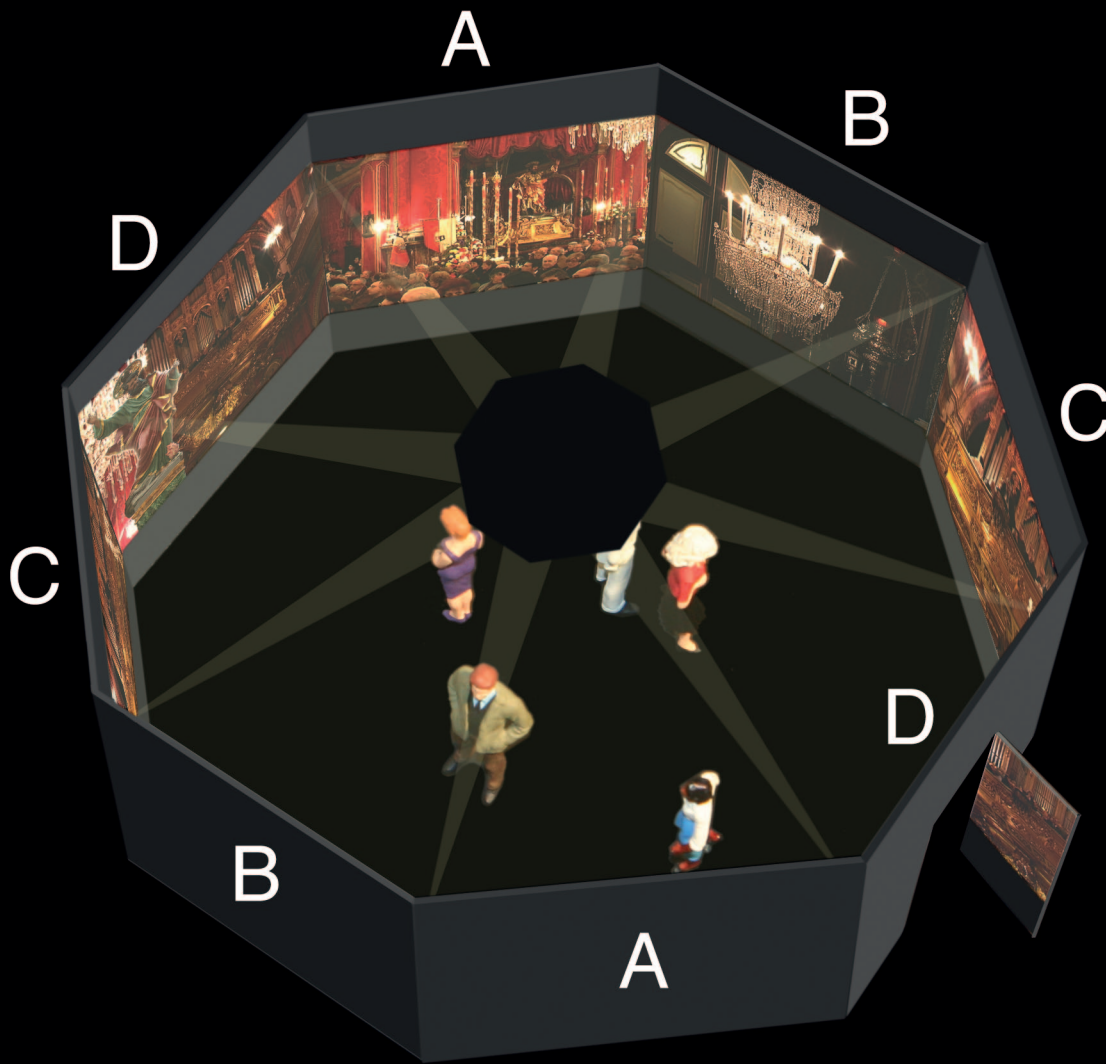
The islands of Malta and Gozo impart an intense awareness of the history of Europe, but also of a psychosocial sensibility which even today seems to influence our self-perception as Europeans.

A phenomenon on Malta is the fervent Catholicism which continues to be lavishly nurtured and celebrated. Omnipresent is the legacy of the Knights of Malta - an aggressive military order, also known as The Order of St. John. Malta is dominated by the extensive fortifications erected by the Knights. Dense building areas, dense population, dense car traffic – typical for Malta and Europe.

For many boat refugees from Africa, Malta is the point of arrival today. How “Fortress Europe” “defends” itself against immigrants from Africa has parallels to the way in which the Christian powers in the Mediterranean defended themselves against the Turks and the Arabs from the 16th to 18th century.

**Malta - a psychosocial magnifying glass. Malta as a metaphor for Europe - images for an internalised history and its parallels today.**

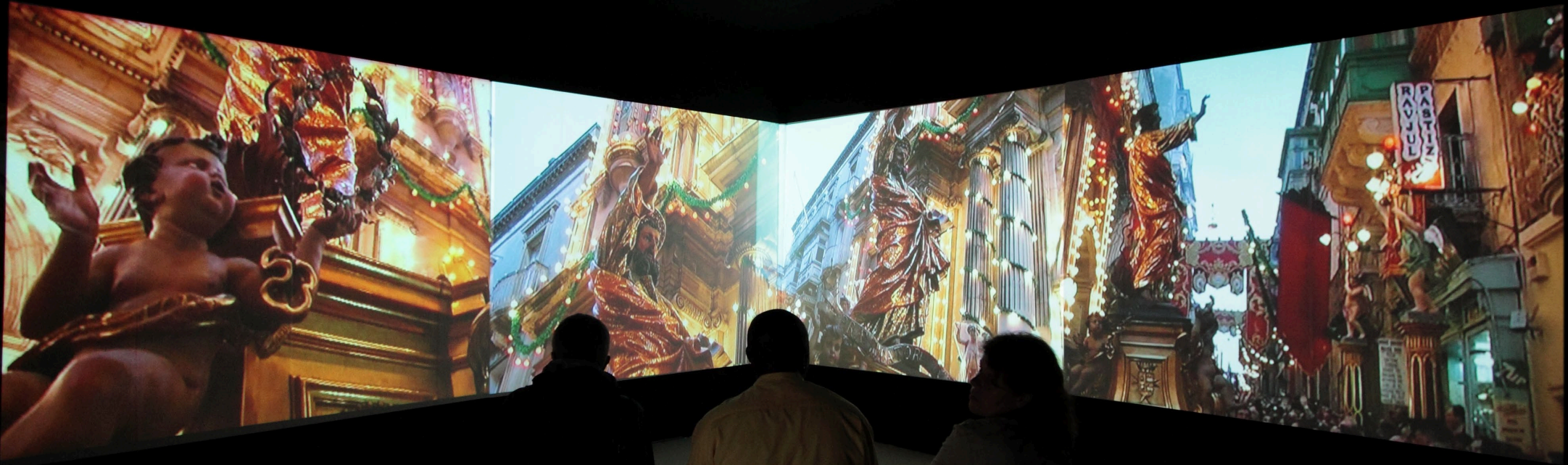
**The panoramic views function as “inner” spaces - virtual memory spaces.**





# MALTA AS METAPHOR

Myriam Thyès, 2008. 4 / 8 channel video installation. Video DV Pal, 20:45 (loop), stereo.



Malta - a psychosocial magnifying glass. Malta as a metaphor for Europe - images for an internalised history and its parallels today. Catholicism, dense population, dense building areas, dense car traffic, churches, fortifications, naval battles, galley slaves, refugees, refugee camps, ... The panoramic views function as “inner” spaces - virtual memory spaces.

[www.malta-as-metaphor.eu](http://www.malta-as-metaphor.eu)

(view from the exhibition at Shedhalle Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland, 2011)



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