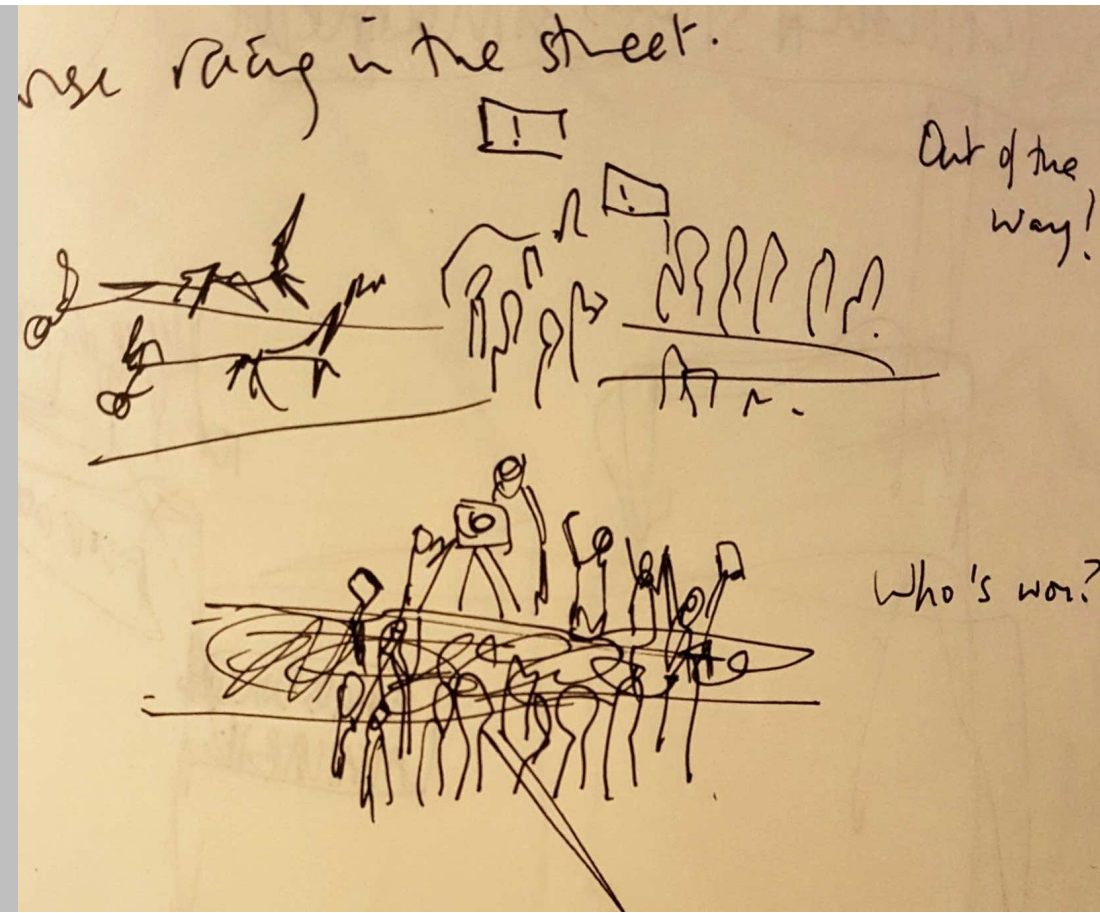


The three following images show the process from scribbles to comic. (1) These quick snaps of the horses as they go by will be helpful for further drawings.



(2) On site sketches of the horse race.

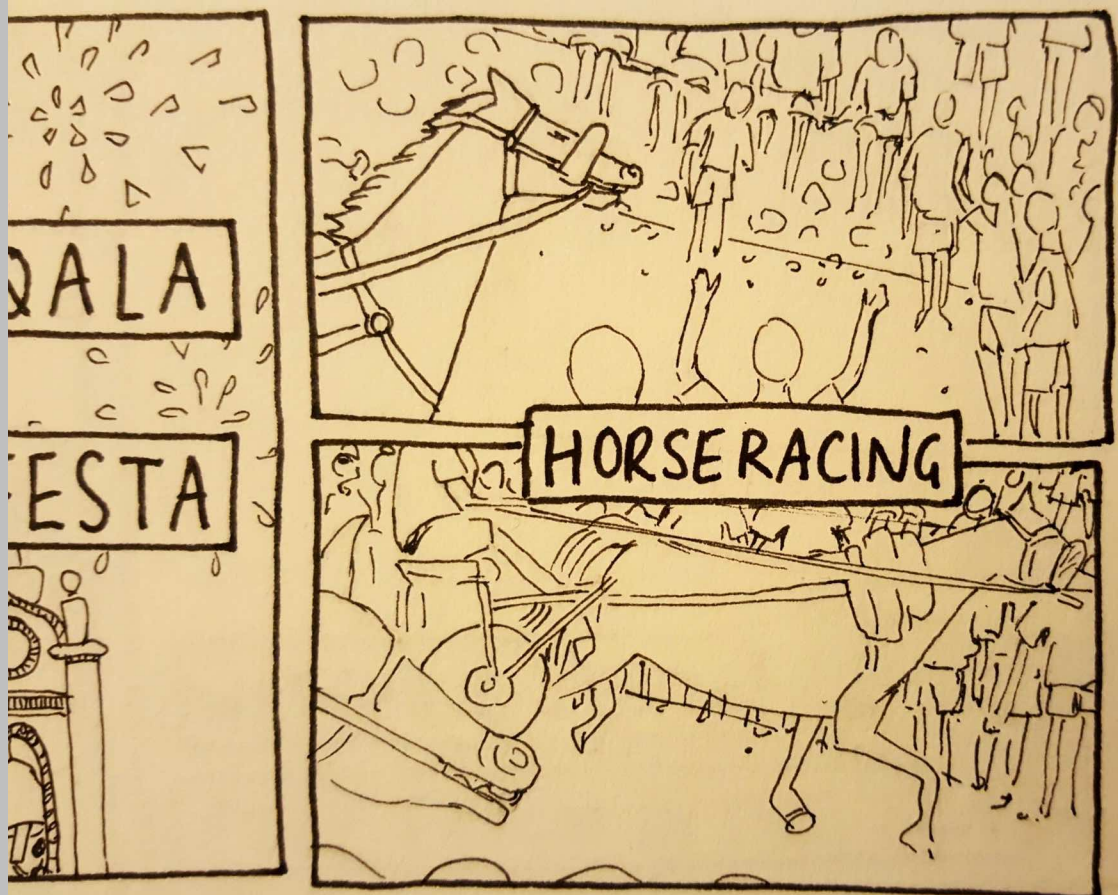


In my previous work I have used sketching and comics, and I wanted to use this time in Gozo to practice both of these things away from my usual field. Rather than choosing one research topic, I decided to try and experiment with different ways of using graphic anthropology in the field - I tried painting, played with pastels in the bay, and sketched using whichever pen I had to hand. I wanted to capture what the students in the fieldschool got up to in their day - so some of them agreed to have me shadow them in their fieldsites, and sketch them doing their work. On days I was free, I would sit in the bay close to the apartments, or in the bus station in town, and sketch whatever took my interest that day. I found that it was a great way to start a conversation with strangers - out of the corner of my eye I would see them stop, point, and eventually come over to ask me what I was drawing.

I like to use drawing to record an event, because it forces you to pay more attention to what's happening around you as it happens, instead of looking back at photographs and thinking - I wish I'd noticed that. I read something online about graphic anthropology where they used the phrase 'You've got to draw it to see it', and I thought, yes, that's exactly right!

One event was great practice for this - the Qala festa, a religious celebration in one of the villages on the island. Everyone is dressed up in their best clothes, there are horse races on the street, street vendors, marching bands and handmade fireworks. I tried to sketch everything as it was happening - not so easy when a few horses are charging up the street towards you! I took some quick photos on my phone as well, to capture any details I didn't have time to sketch in. Afterwards I thought about what I would want to show someone about the festa, and used the two together to create a little comic. I've tried to capture the excitement and bustling atmosphere, as well as the beauty and serenity of the church.

(3) Previous sketches become final 'Horse Racing' panels on the comic.



'Graphic anthropologists at work' photo credit to Grace Herbert.



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Gozo, Xlendi



'You've got to draw it to see it'