

# BAC NEWSLETTER

*The Official Newsletter of the Barbados Arts Council*



*Above: "Potpourri Claws" by Susan Alleyne-Forde*

## Your Art Gallery Needs Help!

The BAC Art Gallery at the the Pelican Craft Centre, exhibits and sells the work of the BAC members, who are allowed to participate in any BAC group show (up to 3 pieces per person) without paying hanging fees. The Gallery has been, and continues to be, a nurturing ground for new and emerging artists who get the opportunity to show their artwork and gain valuable experience at the BAC Gallery when they might not yet gain access to other commercial galleries. It is a place where young artists can mingle with more experienced artists, and share ideas. The BAC Gallery commission is only 30%, which is considerably less than other art galleries on the island.

Income is derived from membership subscriptions, sales commissions, and rental of gallery for shows. Original art is a luxury

product, and economic decline throughout the island has led to a significant decrease in sales over the past 5 years. The BAC Art Gallery is now in dire financial straits, and may be forced to shut down operations if it continues to be unable to cover operating costs. Our major expense is rent paid to the BIDC for the space used at the Pelican Craft Centre - this amounts to \$1175 per month, and the BAC is in arrears such that the BIDC has threatened expulsion and legal action. The Executive Committee has recognised the urgent need to make changes to the way the Gallery is managed, in order to make it profitable.

To this end, we have begun selling items other than original paintings and prints. We believe that diversifying our inventory and

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# Your Art Gallery Needs Your Help!

offering more variety would expand our market and result in increased sales. This move should also encourage our artists to explore new ways of showcasing and selling their art!

We are now carrying art-related souvenir magnets and key-rings, as well as throw cushions, handbags, and other home decor and fashion items featuring local art.

We will also be offering private sector partners the opportunity to work with us by sponsoring a wall at the Gallery on a monthly basis. There will be two walls up for sponsorship, which have been named in honour of two of Barbados' most celebrated and respected artists: Karl Broodhagen and Fielding Babb. Bearing in mind that your Executive Committee is made up of artists, rather



*Above: Expanded inventory at the BAC Art Gallery  
Left: Souvenir Magnets featuring art works*

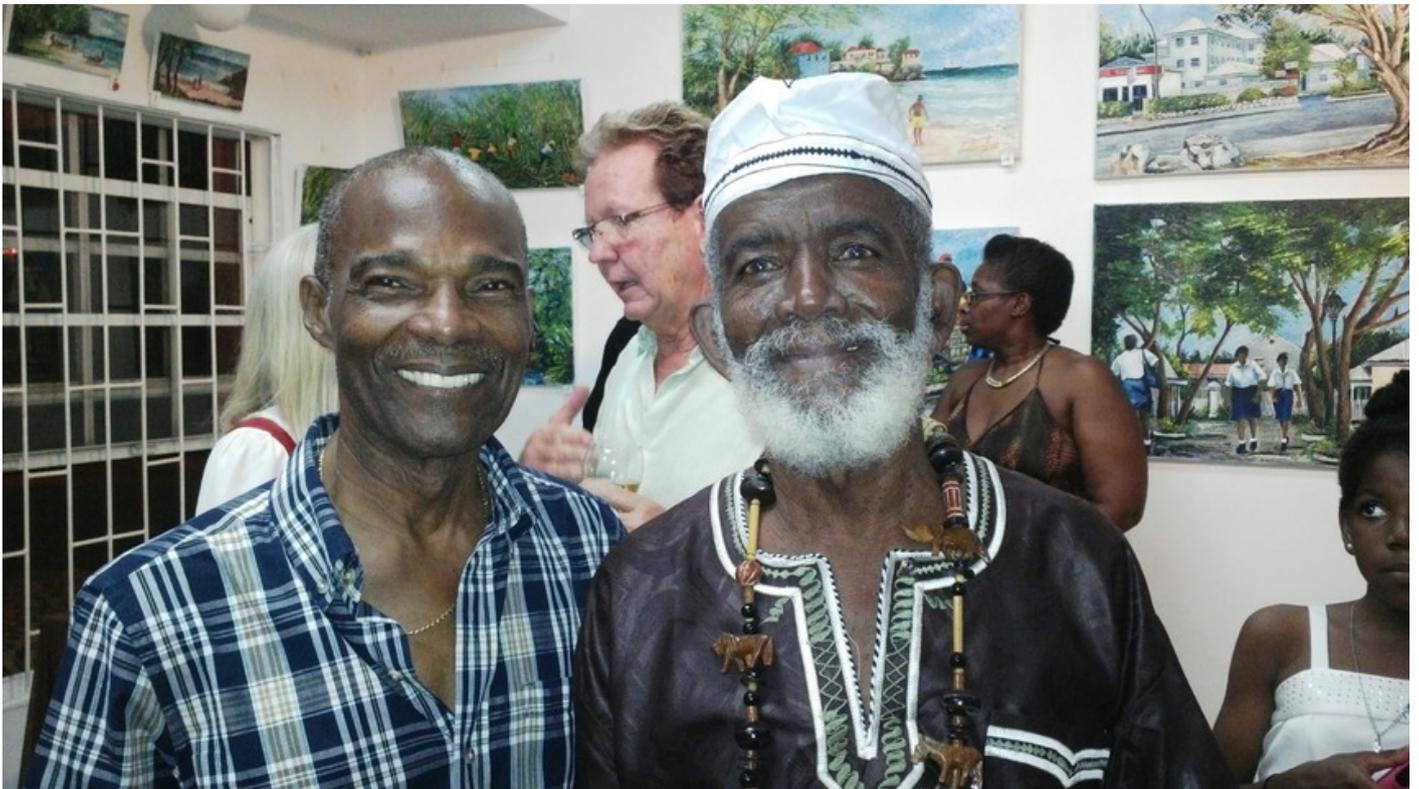


than financial and business gurus, we are inviting the BAC members to share ideas with us on how you believe we could increase the Gallery's income, and therefore keep it open for business. We not only want your ideas, we also want you to volunteer to help with the implementation of these ideas. Please email your thoughts and suggestions to the Executive Committee's Secretary Patricia Browne, at: [thebarbadosartscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:thebarbadosartscouncil@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you and to your input!

The Barbados Arts Council is a registered charity, and the BAC Art Gallery is located in the Pelican Craft Centre on the Harbour Road, in Bridgetown, and is open Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

# Remembering Fielding

*contributed by Markley Clarke*



*Markley Clarke with master painter Fielding Babb (right) at his retirement art exhibition at the BAC Gallery in January 2015*

February 11, 2019 marked the second anniversary of the passing of our beloved artist John Fielding Carter, better known as Fielding Babb. Here, I pay tribute to this master painter in one of two poems written on February 25, 2017, and share some memories of our association.

## **FIELDING BABB – THE ICON**

An icon  
standing on the hilltops of our thoughts  
imbuing them with marks indelible  
has created a legacy along the path of time.

A maestro  
With orchestral movement of knife and brush  
has carved a symphony of artistic delight -  
a confluence of melodic strokes and colours  
which created a harmony that nestled in our minds  
and settled in the waiting of the walls.

A friend  
whose loving care you got  
among the chatter with the paint,  
sharing the knowledge and enlightening the mind,  
educating the youth and touching lives,

demonstrating talent and forming companionship,  
enjoying life and creating laughter,  
speaking good and moving on.

A mentor  
whose light up on your canvas scene  
glowed gloriously with endless fervor,  
while echoing guidance  
inspired tomorrow a brighter day.

A family man  
whose art stood firm  
beside the modest St. T rose.

You called him wonderful –  
a loving person with generous spirit  
that transcended collective effort;  
the gem of gentlemen with fascination  
for us to follow;  
an international artist  
with impasto beauty;  
a documentary historian  
capturing heritage land and symbols;  
a national treasure upon our history's page.  
Fielding Babb – the luminary legend  
whose candle dimmed at eighty one.

# A Sad Farewell to Mrs. Maureen Ifill

*"It is not length of life, but depth of life."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

On April 29th, 2019 the Barbados Arts Council received the sad news that Mrs. Maureen Ifill had passed away.

Mrs. Ifill retired in August last year after spending 23 years as Art Gallery Attendant at the BAC Art Gallery. We are deeply thankful for her love and contribution to the BAC and to the arts in general. She will be greatly missed.

We at the BAC extend our condolences to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

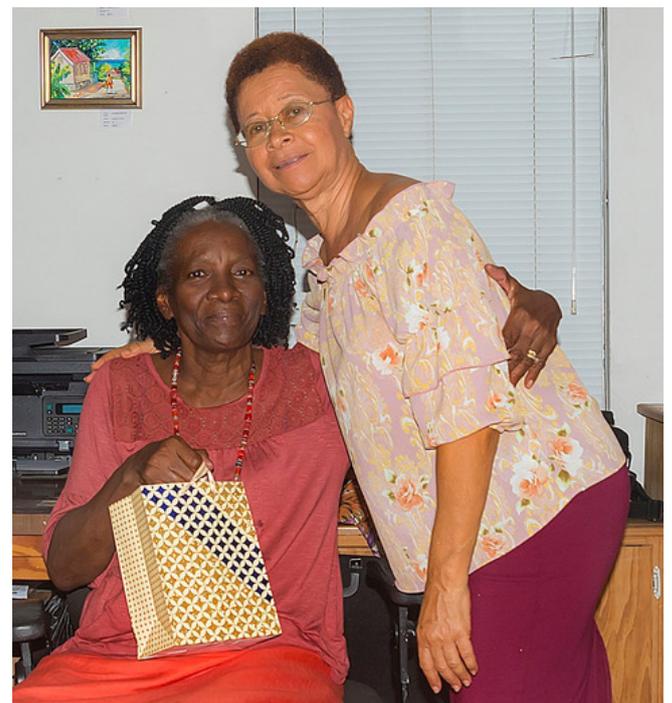


Above: Mrs. Ifill with Neville 'Oluyemi' Legall

Left: Mrs. Ifill with Virgil Broodhagen

Below: Mrs. Ifill with Patricia Browne

Bottom left: Mrs. Ifill on her last day of work at the Barbados Arts Council, 30 August 2018.



# Which Artist Designed the Barbados National Flag?

The National Flag of Barbados was designed by Mr. Grantley W. Prescod. His design was chosen from 1,029 entries in an open competition organised by the Government of Barbados.

Mr. Prescod was awarded a Gold Medal, an inscribed scroll from the government, and \$500 which was donated by the Advocate Company Limited. Born in 1926, Mr. Prescod attended St. Barnabas Boys School. He taught before undertaking a one year course at the West of England College of Arts for Specialist Teachers of Art from 1962 to 1963. He also attained a certificate in Education from Bristol University. Between 1967 and 1972, he studied for the Master of Education degree majoring in Art Education at Temple University, Philadelphia, USA.

The National Flag of Barbados is composed of three vertical panels - the outer panels of ultramarine and the centre panel of gold. A broken trident in black is the centre of the flag. The British standard code numbers for the flag are as follows: Ultramarine - BCC148, Gold - BSO/002. The flag is designed in the proportions 3:2. The description of the flag - Blue for the sea and sky of Barbados; Gold for the sand of its beaches. The symbol in the centre panel is the Trident of the Mythical Sea God Neptune. This symbol appears in the Seal of the Colony which was replaced by the Barbados Coat of Arms. The shaft of the Trident is broken indicating Barbados' break with its historical and constitutional ties.

*Here are some examples of how creative minds continue to use Mr Prescod's design today:*



*The national flag of Barbados*

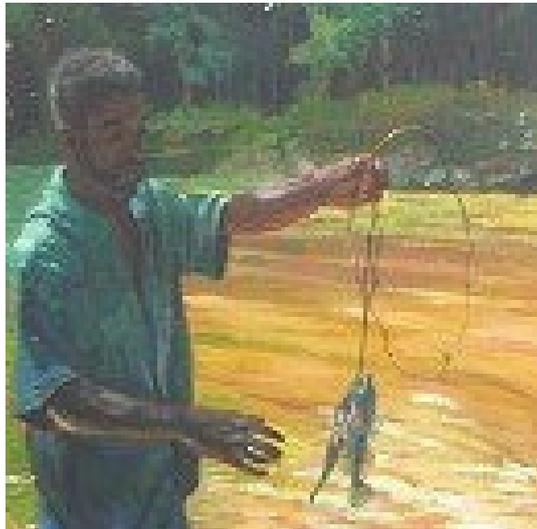


# Featured Artist: Susan Alleyne-Forde



Artist & Art Educator, Susan Alleyne-Forde

Susan Alleyne-Forde began her career as an illustrator in Barbados, after earning her degree from the Ontario College of Art and Design (AOCAD). After doing that for a number of years, she decided to try her hand at Fine Art painting, showing first at the now defunct Coffee and Cream Art Gallery in St Lawrence Gap. Susan also holds a Master's degree in Creative Arts from the UWI, and has been an art educator for over 20 years and a practicing artist for over 25 years. She has shown in galleries in the Virgin Islands, Canada, England, and of course Barbados. The winner of numerous NIFCA awards, Susan also won the 1984 Barbados National Stadium Mural Competition, The Barbados Crop Over Poster Competition of 1989, the 2013 Best in Show,



Above: "Small Catch"

Right: "Getting on Board"

Below: "Beach Checkers"

all artwork by artist Susan Alleyne-Forde



and the 2017 Incentive award in the Crop Over Fine Art. When asked why she creates, Susan responded "I create because I feel empty when I am not creating." She says she is motivated to paint, by the promise of a piece that she can feel proud of. She is a true Caribbean woman who feels inspired wherever she goes, and in the past has been inspired by a tree climbing man in Dominica, by boys getting ready to jump off a pier in Tortola, and even by men fishing by a Jamaican river. Susan takes pictures of scenes and uses the photos to create compositions. She says, "Sometimes I sketch from out of my head and colour them. I write notes beside the sketches. I have



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## Featured Artist - Susan Alleyne-Forde (cont'd)

recently been exploring medium like molding paste. I have used palette knives. I always use a wash of colour and allow that colour to show through. The underpainting can change according to my mood. It is rarely planned."

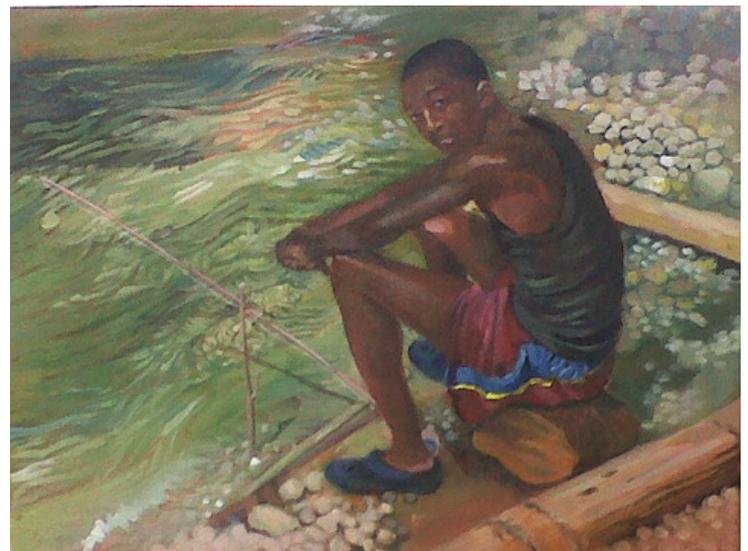
She says she is inspired by other artists, rather than influenced by them. The impressionists were an early inspiration for her as a student, and she found Degas especially exciting, not only because of his brush strokes, but his use of colours. She also enjoyed his rendering of the human form, which she, too, loves to paint. Later on she felt very inspired by the expressionists.



When asked about her favourite medium, Susan demonstrated her flexibility. "I have a love affair with oils; they were what I learned to paint with at OCAD. However, when I was introduced to acrylics, I appreciated the speed with which they dried and their versatility. I enjoy chalk pastels as well, to create portraits."

She wishes that she had the time to be working on several pieces simultaneously; something she was able to do when working on group or solo shows. However, of late she has been producing one piece at a time. She hopes that her work has grown better during her journey as an artist over the years, and asserts, "I am far bolder with my use of colour and I believe that the brush strokes are livelier. Experience has allowed me to let down my guard."

Susan described the art scene in Barbados as



Above: "Waiting"

Left: "Early Morning Fetch"

Below: "Fishing Buddies"



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## Featured Artist: Susan Alleyne-Forde (cont'd)

exciting. However, she feels that the main challenge that local artists face is a lack of exposure. She believes that the World Wide Web is the key to a louder voice on the international art scene. She says the best advice she's ever been given concerning art is that, "we as artists are not entitled to a single thing. We must work at our craft to get where we want it to be. Never stop exploring and learning." Recently Susan has been exploring womanist themes. She explained that they are very personal and certainly not commercial, but they have been an emotional outlet for her. Susan intends to work on more womanist themes in the future, and on larger canvases. However, this exploration does not mean that she won't still create pieces with figures in Barbadian scenes, for which she has become known.

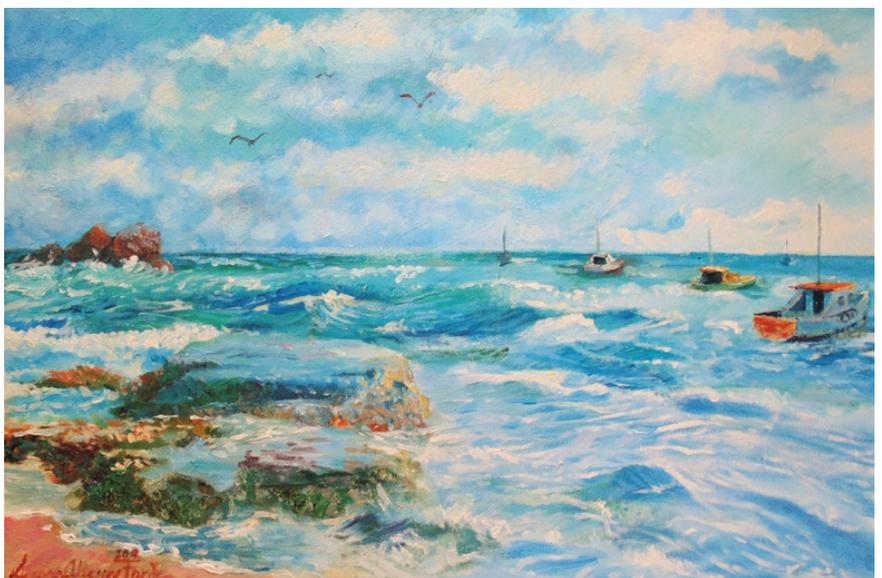
*Top right: "Precious Treasures"*

*Middle right: "Throw a Lash"*

*Bottom right: "Choppy"*

*Bottom left: Abstract Sea piece*

*All artwork by Susan Alleyne-Forde*

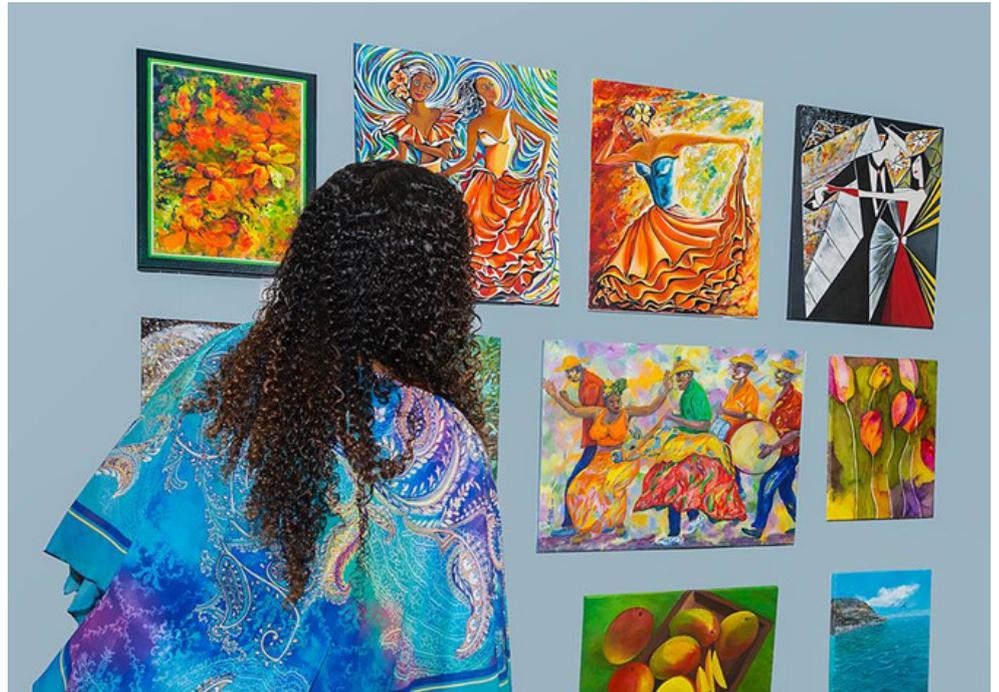


# Now You Can Rent an Entire Wall!!!

Calling all artists... ever wanted to have a solo exhibition but didn't have enough artwork to fill the Gallery? Well, now you can rent a wall!

Yes, you read that correctly! Now you can rent a wall at the BAC Art Gallery to host your own mini-exhibition, and enjoy all the benefits of having your exhibition at an art gallery with a full-time attendant, without having to fill the Gallery. It's such an easy solution!

We offer very attractive rental fees of Bds \$150 per week for a wall, or Bds \$250 per week for the entire Gallery.



Interested persons should telephone the Gallery at 426-4385 or send an email to our Honourary Secretary, Patricia Browne at [thebarbadosartscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:thebarbadosartscouncil@gmail.com) to make arrangements for your exhibition today!

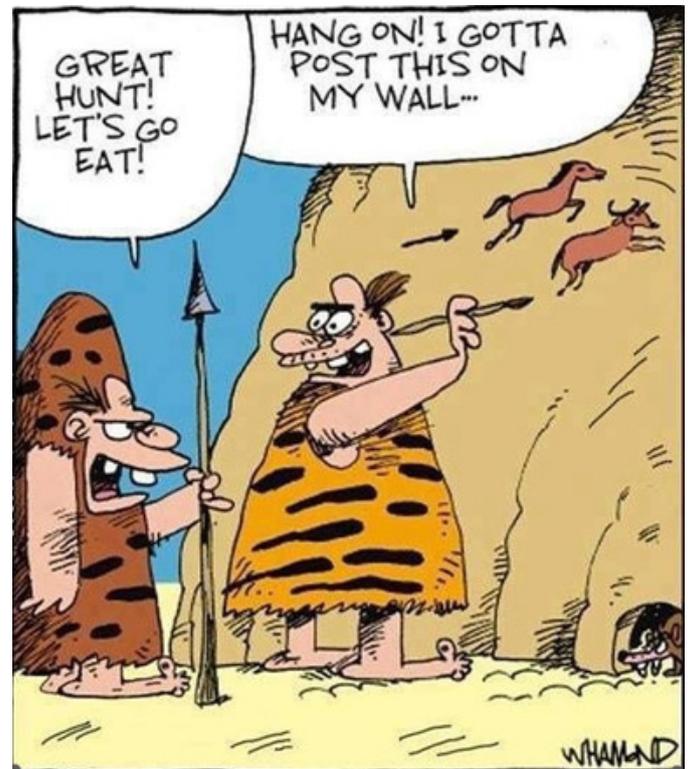
## BAC Member Benefits

The BAC's primary purpose is to nurture the artistic expression of creatives in Barbados. If you are an artist who wants to learn, share ideas, and contribute to the growth of Arts as a viable sector in Barbados, then you should join the Arts Council. We also welcome persons who appreciate art but who may not be artistically inclined, and who want to add their other talents and time to Apart from the satisfaction of assisting the Council in achieving its goals, here are some of the benefits that BAC members enjoy:

1. Members can participate in any BAC group show without paying hanging fees! (up to 3 pieces per person)
2. New and emerging artists get the opportunity to show their artwork and gain experience at the BAC gallery when they might not yet gain access to other galleries
3. The BAC gallery commission is only 30%! (considerably less than other galleries)
4. Members get a 5% discount when they purchase art supplies from Laurie Dash & Sons
5. Get a 5% - 10% discount on selected items from The Art Hub

Visit the Gallery and apply for membership today. An annual fee of Bds \$100 is applicable. Art Students (secondary school and BCC) are eligible for a student membership fee of Bds \$50 per year.

# The Last Laugh...



## Early Facebook



### One more...

An art thief in Paris almost got away with stealing famous paintings from the Louvre. However, after escaping with the goods, he was captured only two blocks away when his get-away vehicle ran out of gas. The Police were confused and asked how he could mastermind an almost perfect crime and then make such an obvious error, he replied: "I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh."

BAC Art Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10am to 5pm, and Sat 10am to 1pm  
 #20 Pelican Craft Centre, Harbour Road, Bridgetown  
 Tel: (246) 426-4385 Email: thebarbadosartscouncil@gmail.com  
 www.thebarbadosartscouncil.com