

BAC

NEWSLETTER

***THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BARBADOS ARTS COUNCIL***

**INSIDE:
FEATURED ARTIST -
DON JUNIOR SMALL**

**PRESCHOOLERS LEARN
ABOUT THE VALUE OF
ART**

**GALLERY
TEMPORARILY
CLOSED DUE TO
COVID-19**

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Creating Art under Curfew



Jill McIntyre
Newsletter Editor

For the first time in our lives, Barbados is under a 24-hour lock-down curfew. For many this will be a frustrating time, but for artists and creatives, this can be a time of renewal. Suddenly our packed schedules are no longer packed, suddenly we have less appointments to keep, suddenly we have less visitors turning up during our studio time to distract us from work, suddenly deadlines have been put on pause. We finally have more of that very precious resource that always seems too scarce... TIME. Time without pressure.

So take a deep breath and enjoy your new breathing space. Pull out those old unfinished pieces and finish them, revisit those projects that you were never quite satisfied with but could never find the time to rework them and make them better. Or perhaps teach yourself a new technique or try a new genre, a new style, new subject matter. So what if the shops are closed and you can't buy canvas and paints? Now you can challenge yourself to create art using unconventional materials and methods. As Creatives, let us choose to be adaptable rather than rigid in the way we think and work. This can be a time of exploration and discovery. This can be the time for a rebirth of your creativity,

this can be your personal Renaissance! So take advantage of this precious gift of Time and use it wisely. At the end of the lock-down, what Art will you have created under curfew?

I strongly suspect that after the curfew we will all need to create a new normal, since our old concept of normal will be forever changed. Let us therefore challenge ourselves to create a new and better normal for the future.

In this issue our featured artist is the mega-talented Don Small. Don is a Barbadian painter, muralist, sculptor and teacher who has been creating art for many years. His style is representational and very recognisable. His paintings salute Barbadian culture and heritage, and in this edition we salute him.

We also take a look at two expat artists from England and Canada, who spend their winters in Barbados and whose artworks are inspired by our island and our people. I hope you enjoy this edition!

The BAC Art Gallery is closing temporarily.

Dear Customers and Friends,

Due to the confirmed presence of COVID-19 in our island, and for the health, safety and well-being of our artists, clients and community, we are temporarily closing our doors effective Monday, March 23, 2020 until further notice.

All artists who were exhibiting work at the Gallery were asked to collect their art work by Monday, March 23, 2020 at the latest.

We encourage everyone to take all health precautions and keep safe! Thank you, and we look forward to serving you once again.

Executive Committee
The Barbados Arts Council

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#StopTheSpread

ON THE COVER

Featured on the cover of this issue is a photo of Preschoolers from Thea's New Vision Preschool & Daycare, who visited the BAC Art Gallery in February 2020 (see story on page 8)

Follow us on Facebook at: Friend of Barbados Arts Council and Instagram at: barbadosartscouncil



Featured Artist: Don Junior Small



Artist Don Junior Small

Don was one of the painters of the well-known Speightstown mural "Bridge of Tides" on the north wall of Jordan's Supermarket Warehouse, which stands 80 feet long and 20 feet high, seen in the background in the photo above. The story line of the mural spans the history of Barbados from Amerindians to Independence and beyond, with Errol Barrow and the broken trident, within the dramatic Harrison's Cave.

Another of his recent murals can be seen at the Sharon Primary School.

Don recently mounted a solo exhibition titled "Is this Our Culture?"

Don Junior Small is a Barbadian Visual Artist and Teacher, who lives in the rural parish of St. Andrew, Barbados.

He has taught Visual Arts at numerous public secondary schools across the island for the past eighteen years and has been attached to the Fredrick Smith Secondary School for the past nine. Don has also tutored at the Barbados Community College (BCC) for a brief while. In fact, he holds the distinction of being the first graduate of the Fine Arts programme to have tutored in the same programme.

His diverse talents as a painter extend from miniatures to murals, specializing in acrylic paints, carving in wood and stone and he has exhibited internationally and locally in both group and solo exhibitions.

A gifted, award-winning professional artist and sculptor, Small has won numerous Gold, Silver and Bronze NIFCA awards, and was the first recipient of the Karl Broodhagen Award for Excellence in Sculpture in 2002 for his coral stone piece "Self Portrait".



Don was commissioned to create a piece for the National Heroes Gallery.

The photos of his work on these pages bear testament to his excellence in composition, his love for the human figure and for immortalizing Barbadian culture and heritage in his art. Don Small is recognized as one of the leading muralists in Barbados and was trained under the tutelage of world renowned muralist John Pugh in California in 2010 and 2011.

His work covers a diverse range of themes, topics and social quarries explored by the artist over the years.

His art was featured on the cover of the 2019 edition of *Ins & Out Barbados*. We invite you to enjoy more of his artwork over the following two pages. Don Small can be contacted via email at: teardon69@yahoo.com

Featured Artist: Don Junior Small



All artwork on this page by Don Junior Small



Featured Artist: Don Junior Small



All artwork on this page by Don Junior Small



"Creativity Changes a Place and the People Who Live There for the Better." - Darren Henley

The following is an open letter penned by Heather-Dawn Scott and originally published online by Artists Alliance Barbados on 13th April 2020.

We were never going to get the timing right. This time of lockdown is wielding inevitable changes that will affect the way we live and work here. The efficient running of our lives will be further dependent on technology and the internet. Tourism will suffer and in building it back we must be sensitive to environmental issues. Doing away with the 11+ too will mean a restructuring of the educational system. All changes that are dependent on informed minds thinking creatively. The value of creative thought cannot be underestimated in any field. Often it means doing away completely with established norms.

I cannot speak for other fields but there cannot be any doubt that the visual artists in Barbados are currently a very large and potent force, despite all the barriers and hurdles they have encountered they have been tireless and undeterred; no less the educators, the galleries and the curators. Change must come to welcome all forms of visual arts and be ready to recognise and embrace the myriad of new directions our artists young and old are engaged with while no less preserving and feeding from the work that has brought us to this springboard. While there is always a need for pragmatism I must stress that we must have a clear overview of our goals and get things right from the start. For this we must juggle with and share ideas. Push forward with concepts of what a fully functioning NAG could be.

We have had no response from our Prime Minister to the letter sent March 12th, one full month ago, which is understandable given the circumstances. I'm sure you all join me in wishing her a full and speedy recovery. She will be busy - that is her element; yet I feel sure that dealing with both the corona virus and a personal intervention concurrently will have sharpened her sense of values. I know that Mia grew up surrounded by the arts and is up to date on music and can deliver poetry as though it were her own. If we win her trust and crucially can take on the burden of drumming up the finances she may give us her blessing and slip a building or a plot for a new build our way.

It is really way beyond comprehension that any government may ask how they might benefit from an institution such as a National Art Gallery. Judging from the lack of anxiety caused by the state of the collection and the lengths one must go to retrieve a piece for exhibition one can only surmise that those



Artist Heather-Dawn Scott

currently responsible place little or no value at all on the visual arts past or present. It's not simply about what benefit a work of art has, but clearly, to quote a friend, "one might reasonably address the question of the cost of not being able to stand before a work of art", this bears repetition... the cost of NOT being able to stand before a work of art!

Just over two weeks ago Bruce Jardine (architect) and Richard Watson (quantity surveyor) most generously shared their expertise with in helping us to assess Block A which is the Garrison building closest to the Barbados Museum. Block A measures approximately 60x120 and is two storeys, 10,000 sq ft of which currently function as interior. The cost of restoring the building allowing for the particular requirements of a forward looking exhibition space was estimated at \$5 million Bds: with additional costs and fees we come to a total of 7 to \$8 million. This sum is for the building alone and doesn't take into account any other vital ongoing expenses such as restoration of works, acquisitions, salaries or maintenance. We must consider that the sum of restoring this building amounts to the same as would the construction of a purpose designed new build. We will explore this.

I beg you all to read Creative Truth to Power, find it on Facebook . It's a study of the current situation of the arts in Barbados researched and compiled by Annalee Babb, Mark Elliot and Allyson Leacock. It is a thorough analysis of the Arts with unbiased conclusions pointing to the high quality, education, variety and motivation of

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"Creativity Changes a Place and the People Who Live There for the Better." - Darren Henley (cont'd)

our artists and damning of the lack of action or support given by the successive governments and their agencies. Here yet again a leap is required for real change to occur. Please read it, it will clarify what we as artists already know and give solid support to your ideas.

Don't be disillusioned, recessions are a time when start-up rates surge. We can play a significant role in the economy. We are artists we know it's not easy or an overnight thing, (even if we make it look so!!) so many have invested time in their work and

so much has been given in support of developing and promoting others' work (I could make a very long list here but we all know who they are and that without them we couldn't have pulled though). Be confident! Keep the quality of your work high while we work together for our NAG. Lilian sent me a lovely Mandela quote, "It always seems impossible until it is done"... now there was an artist with vision! The time is ripe!

My warmest to each of you,
Heather-Dawn Scott

UWI Jazz, Art & Fashion - Rhapsody in Blue Event

On Sunday, March 1st, 2020 the University of the West Indies, under the patronage of Professor the Most Honourable V. Eudine Barriteau, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, and Mr. Robert de Silva, Managing Director of RBC Royal Bank, hosted the Jazz, Art & Fashion Rhapsody in Blue fund-raising event.

The purpose was to raise funds for the UWI-RBC Race for the Kids benefiting the UWI Student Hardship Fund, Scholarships and the First Year Experience Mental Health Programme.

Several of the BAC's artist membership participated in the Art component by exhibiting paintings for sale with a portion of the proceeds being donated to the cause. Along with the art exhibition, patrons were treated to fashion shows and a selection of music by a Jazz band.

Also a part of the evening's proceedings was a live-painting demonstration by our own Susan Alleyne-Forde who painted this beautiful portrait of an African market vendor, as seen at right. In the background is a painting by Omowale Stewart, who was also one of the exhibiting artists .

It was a beautiful evening celebrating Art, Music and Fashion and raising funds for a good cause.



Artist Susan Alleyne-Forde with her finished piece at the live-painting session.

Linda Hallwood - Creative Glass Artist

Creative glass artist Linda Hallwood was born in Yorkshire England but for the past 20 years has developed a connection with Barbados. In recent years she has divided her time between the island and her home in Cornwall.

After completing her studies in art and teaching in Liverpool, England, she taught art in schools until the first of her family arrived. Teaching art at evening class worked well while her family was growing up and this opened a pathway for working with adults. Over the years she has used art to deliver projects in the community, helped parents support their children and taught English as a second language. Her favourite project was when she was sent to China to show university lecturers innovative teaching methods.

Linda's career in teaching took many paths but even when delivering graduate teaching courses for Huddersfield University she included elements of art and for a number of years was an adviser on the subject. When the opportunity arose to retire early, she jumped at the chance to do what she had been waiting all her life to do; devote all her time to creative pursuits.

Glass work came in the form of a new challenge. She signed up for a glass art qualification that encompassed stained, fused and mosaic glass work. At the end of three years she qualified

and started to develop her own style and has never looked back. Fused glass particularly excited Linda as every part of working in this medium is a challenge but when it goes well the results can be spectacular. Fusing is when powdered, granular (frits) and sheet glass are used to create a picture, design or vessel by firing in a kiln at high temperature so that the glass melts, adheres or combines so that when cool gives the desired effect.



Artist Linda Hallwood



Below and right are glass artworks by Linda Hallwood



Linda Hallwood - Creative Glass Artist

When in the UK she lives in Cornwall by a beautiful turquoise blue sea and clear blue sky (most of the time) and the same when in Barbados. It is not surprising that they have a great influence on her. She is a keen snorkeller and the coral reefs off the West Coast of Barbados have provided inspiration for her work in the form of colourful sea life, waves and the coral itself. The view from the sea is also a favourite topic where she creates pictures of island life.

Linda feels fortunate that her work appeals to many people and can be found all over the world. She enjoys being involved in charity fund raising events such as The Anonymous Exhibition on the island. She has been recog-

nised by the internationally acclaimed Glass Prize which demands applicants to be of a high standard. More of her work can be seen on her Linda Hallwood Facebook page.



Preschoolers Visit the Art Gallery

In February, the BAC Art Gallery was proud to host a visit by a group of Preschoolers from Thea's New Vision Preschool & Daycare, which is situated in Sargeant's Village, Christ Church. The children were very well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed looking at the artworks on display.

We commend Ms. Dorothea Alleyne, the proprietor of the school, for being such a forward-thinking visionary in exposing her charges to local works of visual art at a young age. Actions like this bode well for the future generation's appreciation of, and respect for Visual Art. Historically, Art was not treated as an important part of our early childhood education system, and therefore



generations of Barbadians grew up not fully understanding or appreciating the true value of art and culture to the development of our society. Children were often told that art was merely a hobby and not a career choice.

We live in different times now, and the possibilities for Art as a career are astounding. We hope to see more schools (at all levels not just the early childhood education sector) participating in scheduled Gallery tours in the future.



Artist
**MAUREEN
 TRACEY**

Barbados & Canada

“As a young child of seven born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada I found myself on a bus to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts heading to Saturday morning art classes. Imagine being able to do that then - what independence! I can remember vividly being introduced to the work of ‘a painter’ who painted faces and situations in ‘all kinds of different angles, shapes and proportions’. Yes it was Picasso! And that is where my major influence lies and does so until this day.

As a mature artist now having experienced a career in textiles, colour and design never left

me and actually was responsible for my initial exposure to the Caribbean where I married a Barbadian. There is something magical in life that happened to me then that has never left me to this day even though I now spend a good amount of time also in Canada and travelling the world. The magic was, and is, the people and the environment of where they live that makes them who they are. The tropical breezes, the vibrant colour of flowers everywhere, the upbeat, omnipresent music, the magnificent emerald sea, the aroma of local cooking. And, the climate that lends itself to being very laid back and aware of who we are. I truly believe it extends our life!



Barbados: “Breadfruit Tree & Bajan Chattel House”



Barbados: “View up East Coast”



Canada: "In My Dreams"

The artistic styles, yes styles plural, that I express are multi-disciplinary meaning that I find it necessary from a creative point to diversity between mediums. I first trained in oils but then expanded into oil/cold wax which is a very organic process using pure white beeswax mixed into the oils giving a very 'touchy/feely' look to a painting. Painting in acrylics has also taken on an advanced process with all the new mediums which can be added to give a contemporary look with working in mixed media using glass beads and fibre. Inks on Japanese rice paper using a wax resist method also attracts me for a very loose and subliminal look. Some images are being provided to show some examples. But the theme is always the same - vibrancy and intensity of colour whether applied to tropical or northern subject matter. As a magazine cover artist in Barbados, I am however, known for my little 'Lovesheep', my interpretation of the Bajan Black Belly Sheep that I show in my paintings along with pink-roofed chattel houses - they're so much fun!

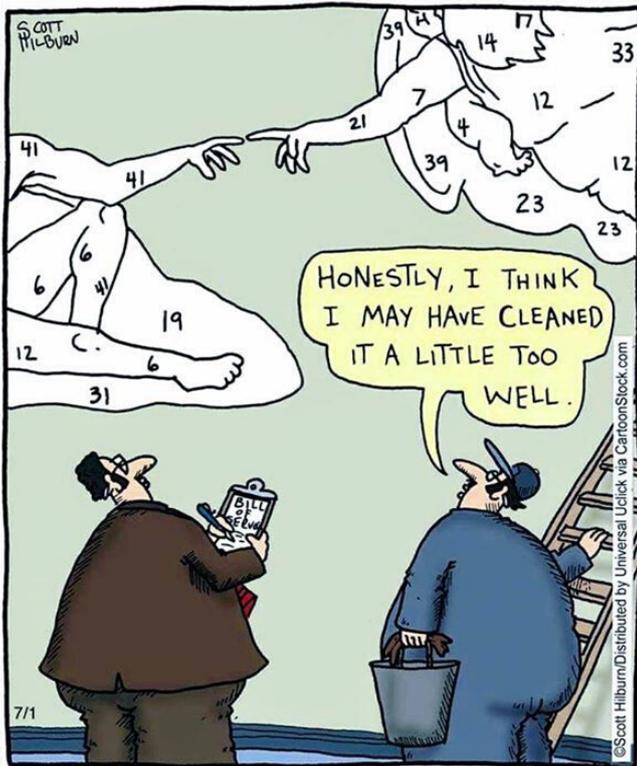


Canada: "Floral Fantasy"

By using strong colour, it appears to reach out to people who will always comment that my work is very happy and cheerful. I somehow don't do angst. I never think of that when I paint but it appears that what I feel actually does come out. And this gives me great pleasure that I can make someone feel happy in what I do and exhibit for them. My life is reflected in my work as I am very lucky to have a sunny and humorous personality and this is how I show life in my work. It's just my way!

People always wonder what keeps an artist motivated. There's only one answer and that is.....our audience. Without an audience an artist can't perform. An art mentor once told me that we had to, yes had to, show our work because if we didn't we would stop painting. The reason? you can't keep giving your work to relatives or putting them in the closet. So they have to go somewhere and if you put them out there, they just might sell. And then provide the psychological and physical fuel to keep the process going.

The Last Laugh



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 Visual Arts as a viable sector in Barbados, then you should join the Barbados 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 help nurture the visual arts in Barbados. 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 on sales 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.

BAC Art Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am to 4:30pm, and Sat 9am to 1pm
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