

BAC NEWSLETTER

*THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BARBADOS ARTS COUNCIL*

**INSIDE:
THE BAC HONOURS
KARL BROODHAGEN
& FIELDING BABB**

**A PEEK AT THE
BAC'S CHRISTMAS SHOW**

**NEW 2020 GALLERY
SCHEDULE**

NOVEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

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Welcome to a New Year



Jill McIntyre
Newsletter Editor

It's 2020 - a new year - generally a time when people reflect on what they have achieved over the past year; define their vision, purpose and aspirations; and make new goals and resolutions. We at the Barbados Arts Council are also making plans to do more and be better in 2020. Our primary objectives as an organisation remain as follows:

- To encourage and develop the visual arts, and co-operate with other associations and groups in the development of the visual arts; and
- To co-operate with, inform, advise and assist the Government in matters relating to the visual arts.

Over the past year, Barbados has seen a growing interest in and appreciation for the visual arts and artistic expression, especially among Millennials. This is a very encouraging sign for the future of visual arts in Barbados. One of our goals is to ensure that the younger generation knows about the invaluable contribution of artists who are no longer with us, but whose artworks are the foundations on which the legacy of Barbadian visual arts has been built.

In this issue we feature two artists whose lives reflected a deep commitment to the development of visual arts in Barbados, and to encouraging a culture of love for art. Karl Broodhagen and Fielding Babb were artists who created national treasures, and who were indeed themselves national treasures. It should be noted that the lives of these two great men could never be simply condensed into a newsletter article. The words and images in this issue are merely meant to spark good memories in the minds of those who knew and loved Broodhagen and Fielding, and to spur curiosity and interest in those who did not have that privilege.

This year the BAC is naming two walls in our Art Gallery for Karl Broodhagen and Fielding Babb. This is our way of honouring and celebrating two great men and fellow artists, and ensuring that their names will be remembered by all art lovers who visit our Gallery.

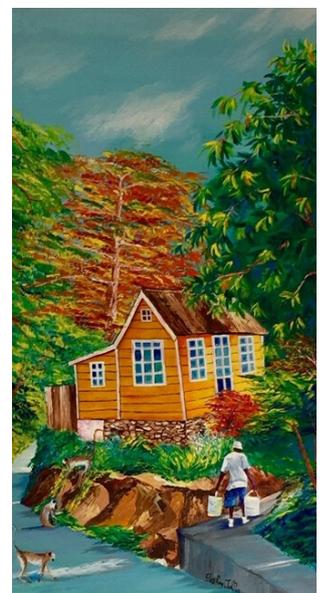
New 2020 Art Gallery Schedule

Dec 8, 2019 - Jan 18, 2020	The Christmas Show
Jan 19, 2020 - Feb 21, 2020	All Bajan Group Show
Feb 23, 2020 - Mar 13, 2020	Members Group Show
Mar 15, 2020 - Apr 04, 2020	Members Group Show
Apr 05, 2020 - Apr 18, 2020	Clairmonte Mapp Show
Apr 19, 2020 - May 16, 2020	Little Gems Group Show
May 17, 2020 - May 30, 2020	Available for rent
May 31, 2020 - Jul 04, 2020	Our Heritage (curated)
Jul 05, 2020 - Jul 18, 2020	BAC Tribute Exhibition (curated)
Jul 19, 2020 - Aug 08, 2020	Crop Over Group Show
Aug 09, 2020 - Aug 22, 2020	Sheridean Skeete
Aug 23, 2020 - Sep 12, 2020	Group Show
Sep 13, 2020 - Oct 10, 2020	Group Show
Oct 11, 2020 - Oct 24, 2020	Available for rent
Oct 25, 2020 - Dec 05, 2020	Independence Show
Dec 06, 2020 - Jan 09, 2021	Christmas Extravaganza

ON THE COVER

Featured on the cover of this issue is this gorgeous painting (at right) "Orange Hill Village" Acrylic on canvas by Glenroy Jordan.

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



Featured Artist: Karl Broodhagen

The following is an amalgamation of several articles written about Karl Broodhagen, including tributes by Trevor Marshall, Timothy Callendar, articles published in the Barbados Pocket Guide, and Brett Callaghan's "Meet a Bajan" in Totally Barbados

Karl was born on 4 July 1909 in Guyana (then British Guiana) and attended school there until his arrival on the shores of Barbados at the age of fourteen with his mother. Broodhagen initially worked as a successful tailor, and this role may have initiated his deep understanding of the human form, which would later manifest itself in his work as a sculptor. Broodhagen began sculpting, painting and creating, and it is his realistic portrayal of individuals that makes his work so engaging. He sought out the people he wanted to capture, but people also came to him including many persons of note. Among them were Frank Collymore, the Barbadian writer and editor of the renowned literary magazine *Bim* and Major Noott, an Englishman who was the headmaster of Combermere School.

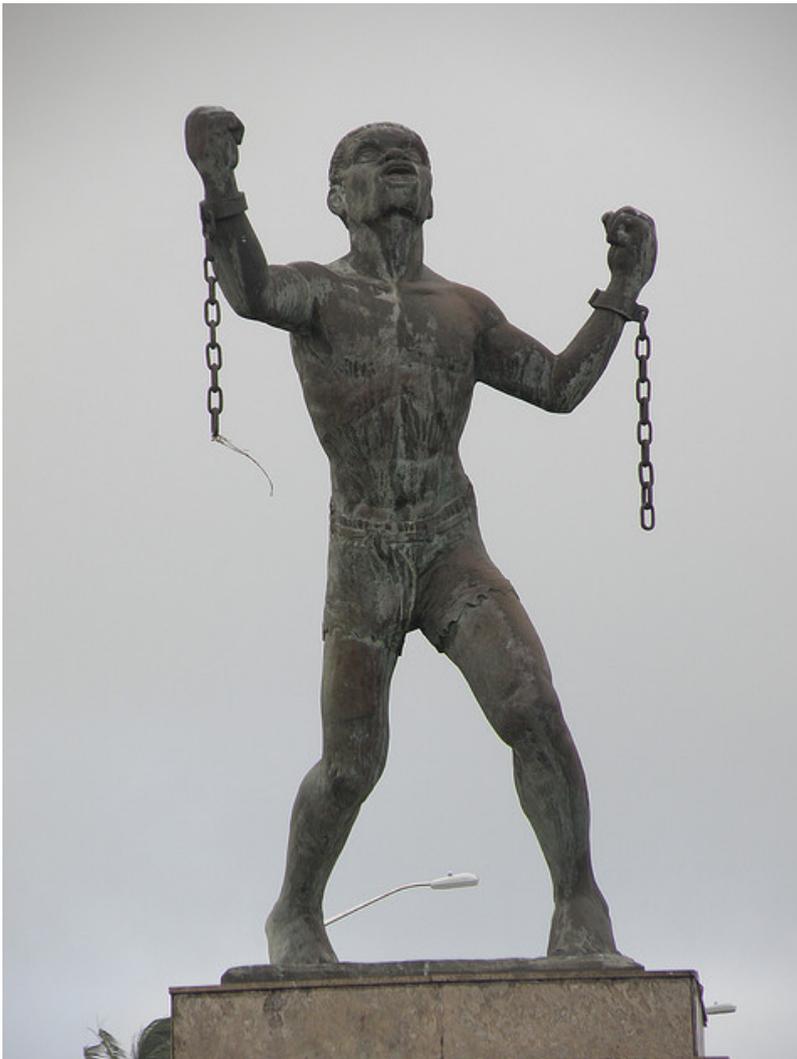


Artist Karl Broodhagen, circa 1969

Between 1947 and 1949, Karl was given the opportunity by Major Cecil Noott, headmaster of Combermere School, to set up an Art Department at Combermere. This department was to be the very first of its kind in a Secondary School in Barbados. In the 1940's art was still perceived in the Caribbean as a non-academic, irrelevant pursuit; it was rarely taught in the schools. Broodhagen not only taught at the prestigious establishment of Combermere, but built an art department and curriculum from scratch. He retired at the age of 60 in 1969, but continued to teach at Combermere on a yearly contract until his late 80s.

In 1952 he was selected for a British Council Scholarship that saw him entering Goldsmith's College in London. This two-year scholarship afforded him the opportunity to gain his Diploma in Fine Arts. Despite his navel-string being buried in Guyana, Karl devoted his life's work to Barbados and its people and on his return from Goldsmith's, was able to further expose Barbados to various expressions of art.

Broodhagen was renowned for his appreciation of the human form, creating primarily busts and portraits, particularly of West Indian women. He told an art critic in 1961 that one aim of his work was "to replace the European standards of beauty still slavishly accepted in the West Indies, by standards based on the local inhabitants themselves." This he did in a number of striking, earthy oil paintings of self-possessed Caribbean women with braided hair, pouty lips, and steady penetrating gazes.



Above: Iconic Barbadian landmark statue "Slave in Revolt" locally dubbed "The Bussa Statue"

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Featured Artist: Karl Broodhagen

By the mid-70s, Karl was in a position where he was seen as a master of his trade. His creativity and passion for his work spread throughout Barbados and the Caribbean offering further exposure to this man of great humility and privacy.

His most recognised work was unveiled in 1985 when the Government of Barbados, under the leadership of Tom Adams, commissioned a statue that would symbolise a Slave in Revolt, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of slave emancipation in the British colonies. The statue has since been nicknamed "Bussa" by Barbadians, after the famous slave who inspired a revolt against slavery in Barbados in 1816. Broodhagen's statue towers in an attitude of sudden freedom, and has become a major Barbadian landmark. In 1998, Barbados witnessed the unveiling of yet another one of his full-bodied statues, the imposing statue of Sir Grantley Adams. The statue



Above: Karl Broodhagen with some of his busts, circa 1977 (Photo credit: Mike Owen)

which was cast in honour and memory of Sir Grantley, stands at the entrance to Government Headquarters on Bay Street on the outskirts of the capital city of Bridgetown.

In 1999, Karl was the recipient of the first Pride of Barbados Award. He also received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of the West Indies and an Award of Excellence in Creative and Visual Arts.

In 2002, as part of the National Heroes Day celebrations in Barbados, Broodhagen's Sir Garfield Sobers Statue was unveiled. It was dedicated to our very own cricketing legend for his

Below: Bronze statue of Sir Grantley Adams in front of the Government Headquarters complex on Bay Street, St. Michael

Below: Statue of Sir Garfield Sobers, cricket legend and national hero, at Kensington Oval Cricket Ground (Photo credit: Winton Edghill)



Featured Artist: Karl Broodhagen

accomplishments as the world's greatest all-rounder cricketer and for his contributions to the world of cricket.

Karl Broodhagen - well-known master sculptor, painter, tailor, craftsman, boxer, ceramic artist and teacher in Barbados - died at his home on August 21, 2002 at the age of 93. Eminent Caribbean authors George Lamming and Derek Walcott were so impressed with the man that they each immortalised him in poems. Broodhagen was a pioneering Barbadian artist who changed the face of visual arts in Barbados forever and who inspired a generation of Bajan youth to take an interest in Fine Arts. It is only fitting that the Barbados Arts Council continues to remember his contribution by naming a Gallery wall in his honour and memory.



Above: "Floris" (1961) Oil on canvas



Above: "Amelie" (1954) Oil on canvas



Above: "Nina" (1956) Oil on canvas

Below: "Sir Hugh Springer" (1986) Terracotta sculpture

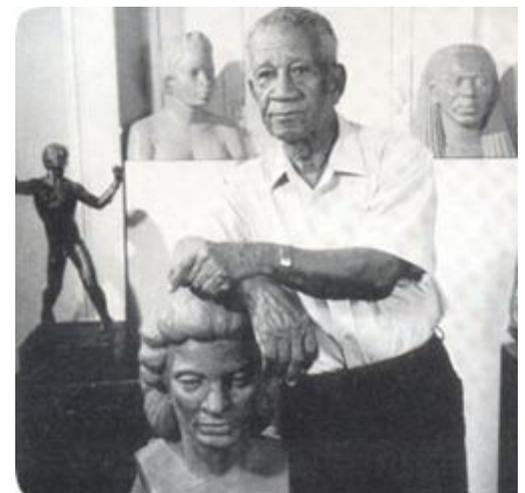


Above: "Girl in red bodice" (1957) Oil on canvas

Below: "Richard B. Moore" (1975) Terracotta sculpture



Above: "Neferdine" (1980) Terracotta sculpture



Above: Master Sculptor and Artist, Karl Broodhagen

Featured Artist: Fielding Babb

The following is an amalgamation of articles and tributes written about Fielding Babb, including an article published in Brett Callaghan's "Meet a Bajan" in *Totally Barbados* and a tribute written by Neville Oluyemi Legall.

When the history of the Barbados Arts Council is written, the name Fielding Babb must be inscribed in bold golden letters, reserved for those whose contributions were stellar and whose passion and devotion served to ensure

the continuity of the Arts Council by regularly exhibiting his outstanding palette knife paintings in the Pelican Art Gallery and also helping to guide and nurture younger enthusiastic artists through the years.

Born 12th December 1935, Fielding received his early education at St. Lawrence Boys' School where he first developed his interest in Art. Back then art had a very low profile in Barbados; it was not officially taught in primary schools and people didn't earn a living from it. Yet despite all this, Fielding went on to become one of the most famous artists in Barbados, and has helped to improve the reputation of art in Barbados for future generations. When Fielding was just twelve years old, his talent was spotted by artists Charlie Best and Goldie White. They sponsored Fielding to receive tutorship from Briggs Clarke, the art master at Harrison College, one of the most reputable secondary schools in Barbados at the time.

Fielding joined the BAC shortly after it was inaugurated on the 7th December 1957. Sir Hugh Springer, Sir William Douglas and Karl Broodhagen were some of the founding members of the organisation. In those early days Fielding and his young friends Clifford Hobbs, Roger Moore and Carlton Murrell, all young, energetic and exciting, would exhibit among artists the likes of Briggs Clarke, Keith Blackett, Gordon Parkinson and Basil Jones.

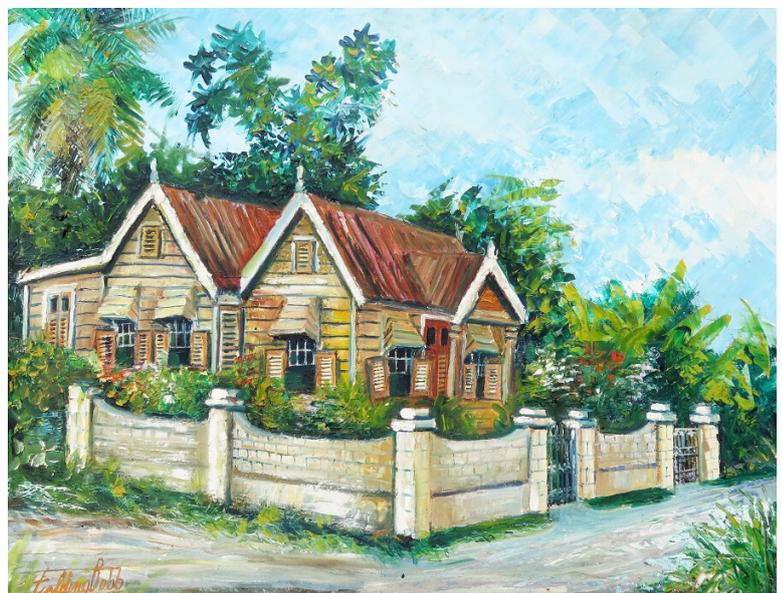
Fielding married Cynthia in 1958 and became a Tug Boat Captain with the Barbados Port Authority to support his eventual family of six. He explained, "At the time art didn't make enough money to support a family, so I had to take on a different career."



Artist Fielding Babb, circa 2014 (Photo credit: Dr. Raymond Maughan)



All artworks shown on this page are the works of Fielding Babb.



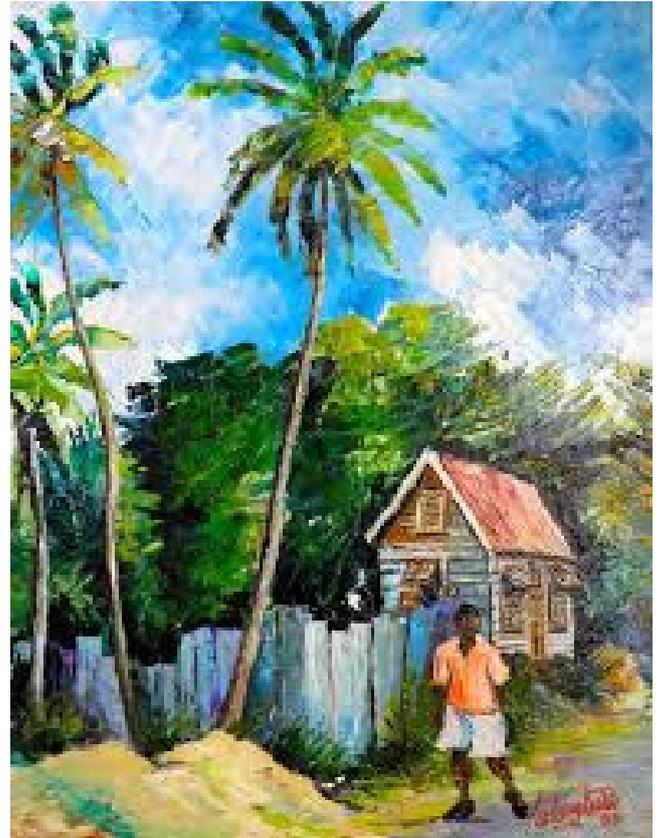
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Featured Artist: Fielding Babb

Though many of his friends migrated to the UK and USA, Fielding stayed in Barbados and developed as one of the most sought after artists the island has ever produced. His paintings grace numerous private and public collections in Barbados and all around the world. He exhibited extensively in Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia, Antigua, Jamaica, Trinidad, Canada, New York, Central America, England and Germany. Several of his pieces are included in the Barbados National Art Collection. His influence spreads far and wide as many were captivated just watching him manipulate his beloved painting knife, spreading the paint as freely as one would spread butter on a piece of bread. In a little while a captivating masterpiece would emerge with all the essential elements of line, colour, shapes and texture superbly represented. It seemed effortless in the hands of the master but many ambitious enough to attempt the feat would testify that knife painting a la Fielding Babb is no easy undertaking.

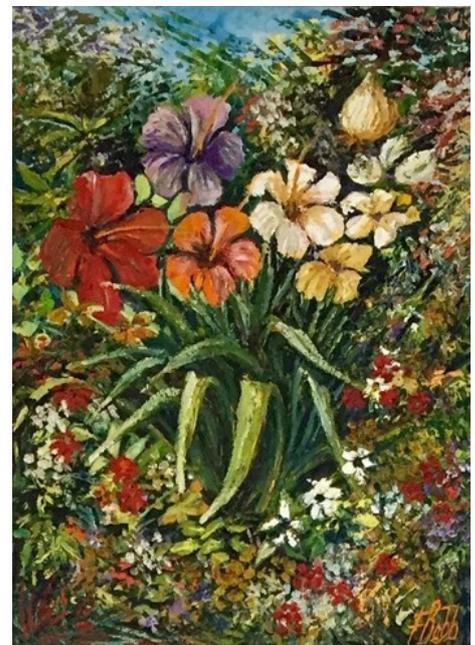
In the early seventies Fielding worked mainly as a Water Colourist, but by the early eighties, had switched over to oils. His technique varied from palette knife to short diagonal strokes both of which he found best for capturing the colours of his chosen scenes. Fielding painted in true colour: brilliant skies over traditional Bajan scenes like the local rum shop, the old chattel house or peaceful villages depicting Barbadian country life.

Fielding enjoyed the company of others and was at ease socialising with the homeless street character as well as the elite from the business and political class. There was never an angry face if he was around since his jovial personality impacted anyone fortunate enough to be in his presence. Often, people would express surprise that he was so easy going and accommodating.



All artworks shown on this page are the works of Fielding Babb.

All artists found out that they could approach him and receive sound criticism of their artwork. He particularly delighted in speaking to and motivating young emerging artists and was quick to compliment any improvements made. Exhibition openings at the Arts Council provided the ideal setting as artists conversed in little groups while enjoying light refreshment.



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Featured Artist: Fielding Babb

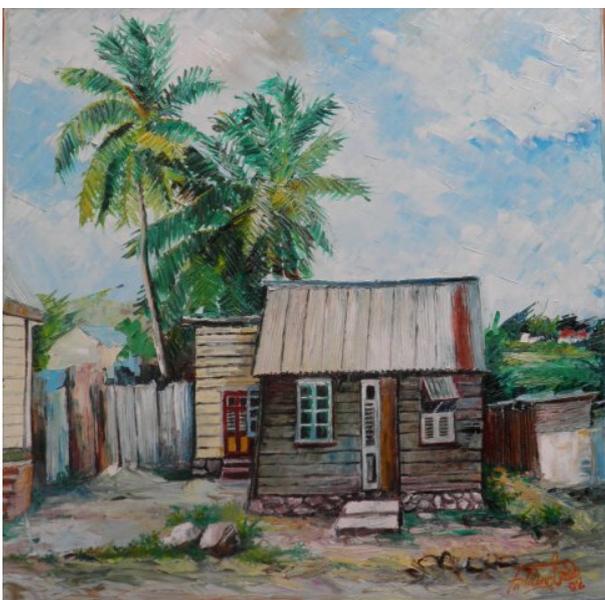
Often Fielding would be the center of attention as he not only provided humour but also reminisced about the early days of the Council and some of the departed artists and stalwarts. Fielding preferred painting outdoors, rather than in a studio, and was able to attract youngsters to the profession. He said, "Back in the 50's there were three of us pioneers: Roger Moore, Hobbs and Fielding Babb, yours truly. We introduced art to the younger generations and now some young people live on the money they make from art."

Fielding knew Barbados inside out. He painted the suburbs in and around Bridgetown with the same passion he painted the many historical sites and architectural interests all around the island. He painted the rocky Atlantic coasts as well as the calm and serene panoramas overlooking the St. George valley. He loved the outdoors ; when asked about his preferred subject matter, he said, "I paint old houses – the historical buildings of the country, and buildings that are wasting away. In other words, I document Barbados' past for the future generations. I want to keep old Barbados alive through my art." About his preference for the palette knife, he explained, "I like the palette knife as it gives a thick, three-dimensional feeling. The subject matter of the old houses and buildings sort of lends itself to the knife, more than if I was using a brush."

During his last year he frequently went out painting en plein air with few trusted younger companions and readily passed on the most valuable advice. He spoke in a manner that all



All artworks shown on this page are the works of Fielding Babb.



Featured Artist: Fielding Babb

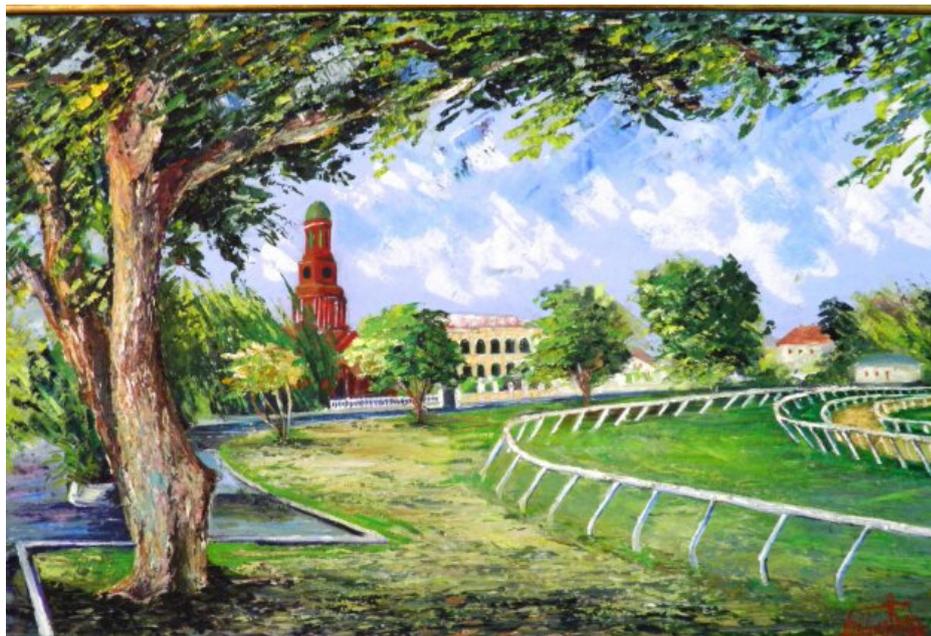
could understand and held the interest of all, inclusive of the passersby whose curiosity drew them to the scene where they too fell under the charm of this legend and national treasure.

Fielding's paintings have stolen the hearts of many and he was recognised for his work by being awarded the Barbados Centennial Honour, as well as being the 2003 recipient of the Lifetime Award in Visual Arts.

Fielding was also an avid collector of antique objects and enjoyed putting them on display so children especially could get a glimpse of our past. He invited many to come and visit his gallery at home.

At his retirement function hosted by the BAC in January 2015, Fielding declared, "I do feel that we should never go out by force. We should always go out gracefully, giving room for artists, not only the visual arts, but all fields. Always take a bow and say 'I should go now'. You more than likely won't see me on the streets painting again and I hope that the young artists here follow what I did in the past and help the young ones who are looking for a career in the fine arts."

Fielding Babb passed away on February 11th 2017. On hearing of his passing, current Prime Minister of Barbados, the Hon. Mia Amor Mottley had this to say, "Barbados lost one of its more prominent icons in the arts; the artist, the man, the true Bajan, Mr. Fielding Babb... Fielding's impressive body of work is a true testament to the deep love and passion he held for this beloved rock, for he was able to capture and archive the built and natural heritage of our island home with detailed precision, nuance and passion." The BAC is proud to celebrate Fielding Babb by naming a Gallery wall in his honour and memory.



All artworks shown on this page are the works of Fielding Babb.

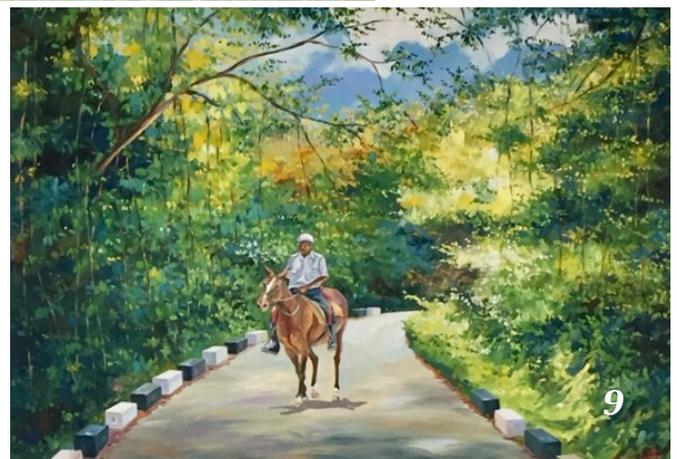
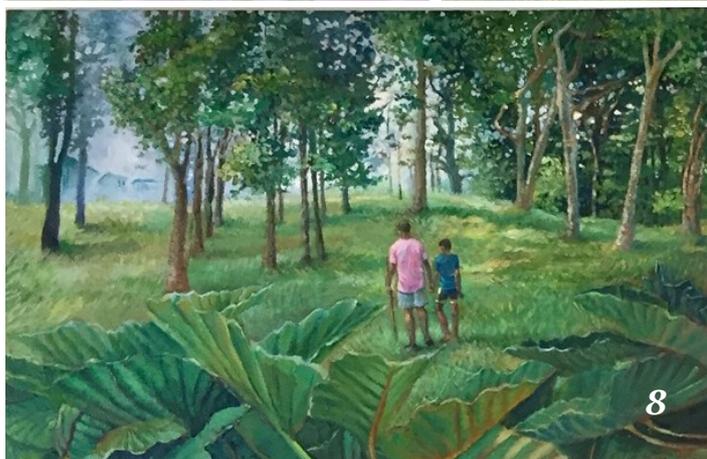
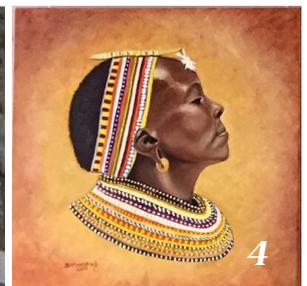
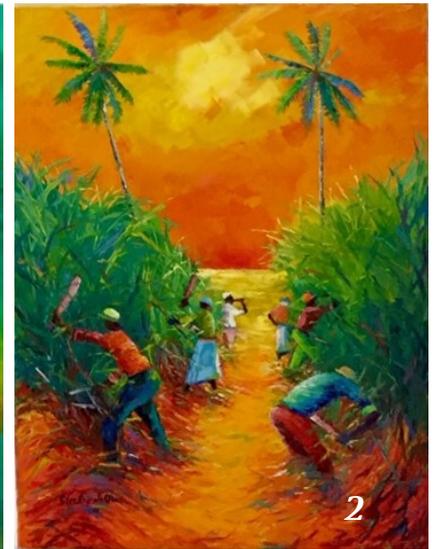


The Christmas Exhibition at the BAC Gallery

If you did not get the opportunity to see The Christmas Show which ran December 8th, 2019 - 18th January, 2020 at the BAC Art Gallery, here is a peek at just a few of the beautiful artworks exhibited by various members of the Barbados Arts Council. Feel free to call the Gallery to enquire about any pieces at which you might like to take a closer look! Artists represented on this page are:

1. Roslyn Worme
2. Glenroy Jordan
3. Michelle Hinds
4. Barbara Pickering
5. Marilda Weatherhead
6. Markley Clarke
7. Elizabeth McKenzie
8. Susan Alleyne-Forde
9. Everick Lynton

Pop into the Gallery today to see more works by all your favourite artists.



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HERITAGE

Friday, November 1, 2019/WEEKEND NATION 18

Legall leaving legacy in art

By Donna Sealy

For 62 years, the Barbados Arts Council has played a part in the development of artists and no one knows this better than its award-winning president Neville Legall.

The visual artist has made a significant contribution to Barbados' artistic landscape, and has been a member of the Council for 35 years, joining while attending the Barbados Community College (BCC).

"When I left BCC, I wanted someplace to show my art. There were some commercial galleries at the time, but I could not walk into any of the galleries as nobody knew me . . .

And at that time we had a lot of good established artists like the [late] Karl Broodhagen, Fielding Babb, Oscar Watts and those guys who were also members of the Arts Council.

"What I found was that once I joined, I could show up to three pieces in group exhibitions and also book the gallery like any other artist and do a solo show if I wanted.

"I had to write a letter but I wouldn't be deprived of an exhibition because I was young or not known. I liked that because within a year I was doing my solo show and that's how I helped to get my name out there," said Legall.

The artist, whose vibrant village scenes of a bygone era and nature, hangs in many homes and offices and has judged many competitions, including the national Independence Festival of

BARBADOS
AH COME FROM!



Creative Arts (NIFCA).

He was the lead artist on the Rock Hall Mural Project 2017, the lead instructor for the National Cultural Foundation's (NCF) En Plein Air Painting Workshops in 2016, 2017, 2018 and he worked with them again this year. He was a guest instructor in 2014 and 2015.

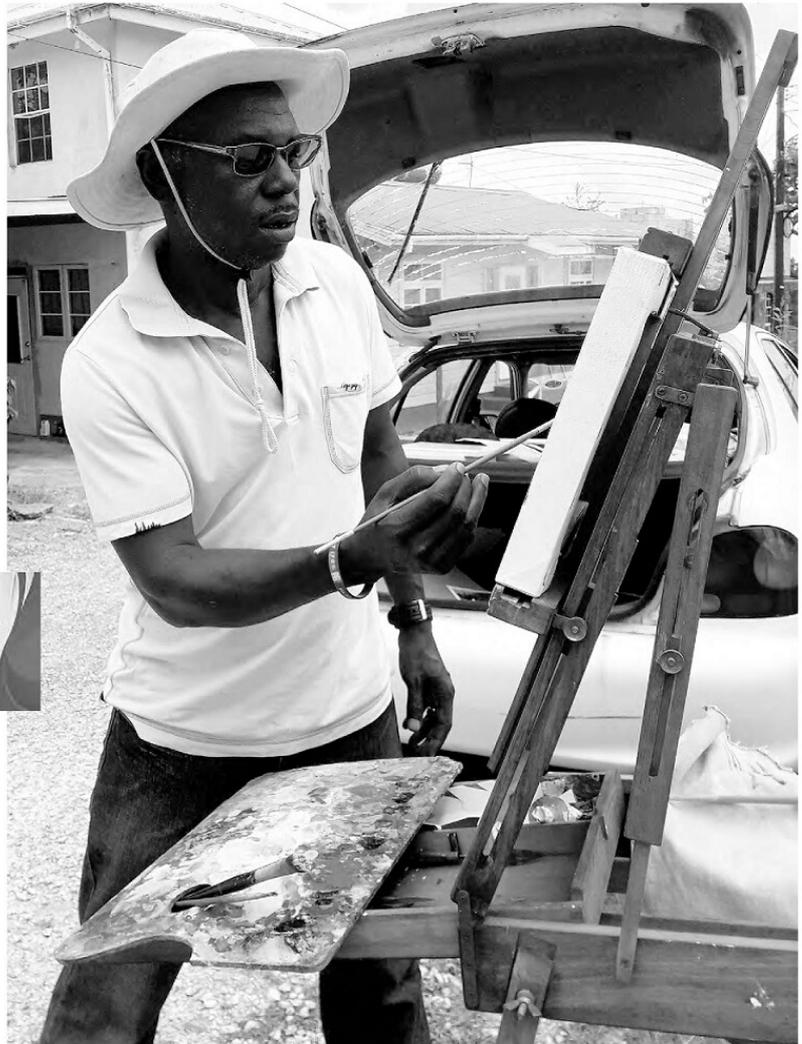
In May this year, he received a Pride of St Thomas Award from the St Thomas Parish Independence Committee for his outstanding contribution to art, his commitment, work ethic, determination and helping other artists realise their dreams.

He's also led the Art Council from 1994 to 1997, 2001 to 2012, in 2017 to 2018 and stepped up again at their annual general meeting in September.

The organisation was set up in 1957 as an umbrella body for the arts at that time, and served as an advisory body to Government. Its members included visual and fine artists, dramatists, and musicians.

However, when the NCF was established in the 1980s, the council became a more visual arts organisation, due primarily to the gallery in Pelican Village.

"The Arts Council is run like a registered charity by people who are not



Neville Legall likes open air paintings, where he is at one with nature. (GP)



Artist Neville Legall is renowned for his paintings of Barbadian village scenes and landscapes. (GP)

necessarily businesspeople, but visual artists who love art and try to keep it going. I joined in 1984. The council is beneficial in that young artists, unknown artists, had a place to go . . . to call home. We weren't judged on the quality of our work; we were

accepted regardless of our standard. We were allowed and encouraged as we showed in group exhibitions,

"I was able to meet Karl Broodhagen and Fielding Babb, talk to them as they would give advice and encouragement which was really, really great . . . Broodhagen bought a couple of my pieces too, and to have him do that speak volumes and told me I was on to something and I could make it.

"There were lots of group exhibitions so you would go to the openings and meet the artists, have a drink and talk to them. It was a learning experience for me and there was lots of camaraderie. To this day, the council has remained somewhat like that and there's good camaraderie and good encouragement still.

"Artists are still coming . . . Some people join but are not active, but we always get new members who have fresh ideas. Some of them also join

the executive and contribute.

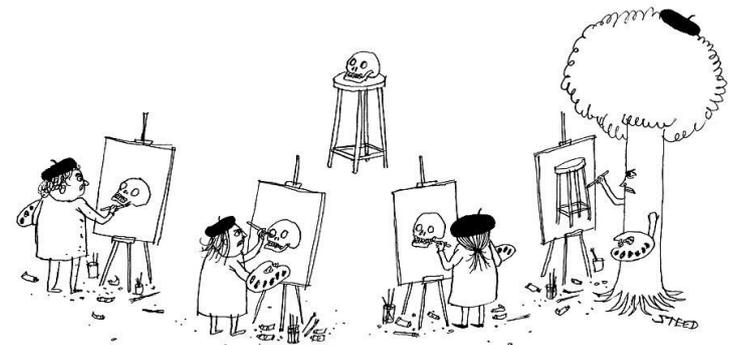
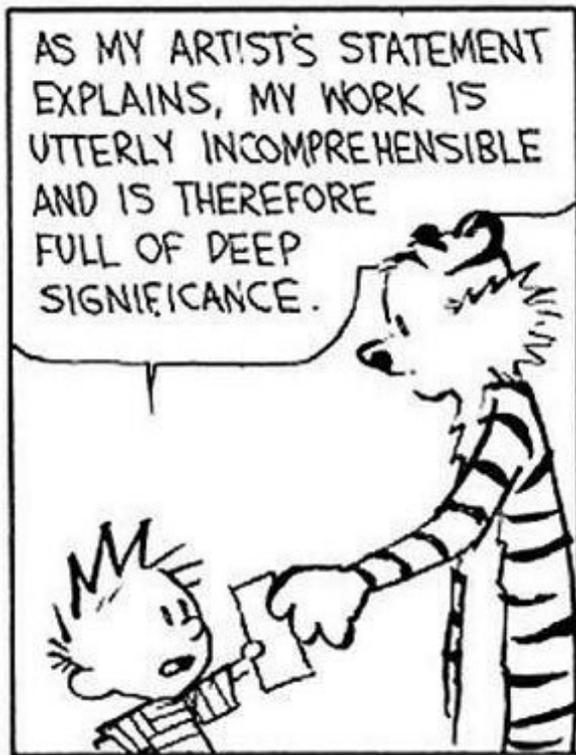
"I've seen that we serve a really important purpose over the years but more so giving young artists an opportunity over the years and an ability to show their work.

"Eventually, some of the other galleries hear about them, they get enough confidence, their work is developing, and they can approach some of the other galleries who would take some of their pieces," said Legall, whose work has been exhibited in Britain, United States, Canada, Germany, and Cuba.

The council once had 200 plus members but these days they're between 70 to 100.

"We do about ten shows a year. Sometimes, we have as many as 50 to 70 people . . . The council is going to be pushing artists to rent a wall as well as having walls at the gallery dedicated to Fielding Babb and Karl Broodhagen," Legall said. (GBM)

The Last Laugh



IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THAT
OR IS IT JUST HOT IN HERE?



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
#20 Pelican Craft Centre, Harbour Road, Bridgetown, Barbados
Tel: (246) 426-4385 Email: thebarbadosartscouncil@gmail.com
www.thebarbadosartscouncil.com