



IDB Cultural Center
Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Avenue, N. W.
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The Arts of Guyana

A Multicultural Caribbean Adventure



Signs of the Zodiac, 1993

by Winston Strick, b. New Amsterdam, Berbice, Guyana, 1942 –
leather, with aluminum and galvanized wire; 30 h. x 64 w. cm
Collection of the Roots and Culture Gallery, Guyana
Photo: Willie Heinz, IDB

Washington, D.C.
Open June 1 to August 11, 2006

**The Cultural Center
of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

announces the opening of

**The Arts of Guyana
A Multicultural Caribbean Adventure**

Open June 1 to August 11, 2006

The exhibit pays tribute to Guyanese artists living and
working in Guyana.

Washington, D.C., May 18, 2006

An exhibition featuring both utilitarian utensils made by the Guyanese Amerindians, and painting, sculpture, leather and fiber objects by contemporary Guyanese artists from different ethnic backgrounds living in Guyana, will open to the public at the gallery of the IDB Cultural Center on June 1st, 2006; the exhibit will remain open until August 11th.

More than fifty works by the Amerindian population have been selected, as well as painting and sculpture representing contemporary artists drawn from several private and public collections, such as the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology, the National Gallery of Art of Guyana - Castellani House, the Museum of African Heritage, the Roots and Culture Gallery, the Burrowes School of Art, and the Faculty of Arts of the University of Guyana.

The exhibit entitled, ***The Arts of Guyana: A Multicultural Caribbean Adventure*** pays tribute to Guyanese artists and culture. In the words of Mirna Liévano de Marques, IDB External Relations Advisor, "The exhibit recognizes the cultural contributions made, from pre-Columbian times to the present, by so many men and women of varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including regional indigenous Americans, Africans, Indians and Europeans. Their combined influence, at different times in history, have made culture part of a sustained effort to advance development in the country. This exhibition acknowledges their effort, and

gives the IDB an opportunity to join in the 2006 celebrations of Guyana's 40th year of independence and the commemoration of Caribbean American Heritage Month, which was declared for June by the U.S. Congress. "

The curator of the exhibit is Félix Ángel, the IDB Cultural Center General Coordinator and Curator, who is assisted by Elfrieda Bissember, Curator and Director of the National Gallery of Guyana – Castellani House, and Gerard Pereira, Assistant Director of the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology, in Georgetown.

The IDB is fully aware of the challenges posed to the Caribbean nations by a constantly changing economic, political and social environment, each year more globalized than before. But it is also aware of their accomplishments and potential, and of the role that culture plays in defining and clarifying them, as it does in the construction process of any great nation.

In his introduction to the exhibit, Félix Ángel states: "This exhibition has been organized with the idea of showing the multicultural composition of Guyanese society today, to give credit to the many people who have participated in the cultural definition of its nationhood as represented by architecture, and to recognize those contemporary artists who continue to work in the country no matter how difficult the practice of the arts may be."

Guyana is called Land of Six Peoples for the multi-racial composition of its society. In reality it is much more than that, a land of many cultures, traditions and faiths from countries in all continents. The Spanish may have been the first to arrive there from the Old World, but the Amerindians had occupied the territory for many centuries. In fact, the Spaniards encountered the Arawaks and the Caribs, but it is also believed that the Guarani traveled that far all the way from the south. The exhibit includes a number of objects created and manufactured by the descendants of the original inhabitants. The selection covers a variety of functions, and the exhibit wishes to highlight their aesthetic and visual aspects.

The catalogue includes a marginal reference to the architectural legacy of Guyana, one of the richest in the Caribbean. Examples of Christian, Hindu and Muslim faiths, and Indian, Middle Eastern, Chinese and European cultures abound. Residential architecture is particularly important. Many old houses have been taken over by insurance companies and other business, preserving them for future generations while making convenient use of them due to their strategic urban location. Most of them bear the Demerara window, a trade mark feature of Guyanese colonial architecture. Among the most impressive buildings is the residence of the Prime Minister, and the Guyana National Gallery which bears the name of Cesar Castellani (who designed it), the famous architect of many structures built in the city of Georgetown during the 19th century. Although fire and the elements have damaged and destroyed many wooden structures over time, Guyana's remaining examples of colonial Caribbean architecture are unique.

Guyana's artistic Diaspora is spread all over the world, and previous exhibits in Washington have given ample testimony of this fact, featuring the work of many artists, some of whom live in the United States. The present exhibit is intentionally focused on artists currently living in

Guyana. An additional component has been added as represented by the work of Stanley Greaves, Patrick Barrington, Hubert Moshett and Ronald Savory, to give an indication, and nothing more, that some art pioneers existed at the time of emancipation from England, helping to establish a perspective for those deprived visions when narrating the "official" history of the arts in the country, as artist Stanley Greaves has pointed out.

Outstanding in the exhibition are the leather sculptures of Winston Strick, one of which has been recently acquired by the Inter-American Development Bank; the paintings by Carl Anderson; and the paintings, sculptures, and reliefs of Philip Moore, one of the most intriguing and multi-faceted artists of the entire Caribbean, still living and working in Guyana. His work, by all means, bears an international caliber. The exhibit also includes the fiber work of three much younger, promising students at the Art Faculty of the University of Guyana: Carlesta Sutton, Stacia Pitt, and Brian George.

The IDB Cultural Center would like to thank all persons and institutions that contributed to make this exhibition possible with their advice and cooperation, especially: Keith Booker, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport; Guyana's Ministry of Tourism; Tamika Boatswain, National Museum; Dr. James Rose, National Trust; Dr. Desrey Fox and Gerard Pereira, Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology; Elfrieda Bissember, National Gallery of Guyana – Castellani House; Chairman and members of the Management Committee of the National Gallery; Tota Mangar, University of Guyana, Faculty of Arts; June Dubisette, National Archive; Kathleen Thompson, Burrowes School of Art ; Ras Camo Williams, Roots & Culture Gallery; Jenny Daly, Museum of African Heritage; Anna Correia, Women's Artists Association; Patsy-Ann Rasmussen, Smithsonian Institution; Desmond Alli, artist; Winslow Craig, artist; and Carl Anderson, artist. Special thanks to the IDB Representative in Guyana, Sergio Varas-Olea, and Marco Nicola, Deputy Representative.

Selection of works in the exhibition



Grater 2 (*cassava utensil*)

stone, 79.2 l. x 31.2 w. x 2 b. cm

Collection of the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology,
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Georgetown, Guyana
Photo: Willie Heinz, IDB



Self Portrait, 1957

by Patrick Barrington,

b. Georgetown, Guyana, 1931 –

oil on masonite (hardboard)

108.3 h. x 92.7 w. x 4 d. cm

Collection of The National Gallery of Art,
Castellani House, Georgetown, Guyana
Photo: Willie Heinz, IDB



Joe Cabongo, 1967-81

by Philip Moore,

b. Manchester Village, Corentyne Coast,
Guyana, 1921 –

acrylic on plyboard

124 h. x 62.5 w. x 7.5 d. cm

Collection of The National Gallery of Art,
Castellani House, Georgetown, Guyana
Photo: Willie Heinz, IDB



Kings of the South, 2002-2004

by Winslow Craig, b. Cappawarri, Essequibo River,
Guyana, 1967 -

samaan wood, 91 h. x 30 d. x 26 w. cm

Collection of the artist
Photo: Willie Heinz, IDB

Exhibition

The exhibition will be open from June 1 to August 11, 2006. A free, full-color catalogue in English will be available to the public at the gallery. Photographs of the artworks on exhibit are available upon request. For photographs, please call 202 623 1213.

The IDB Cultural Center Gallery is open five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free of charge.

For guided tours of groups of ten or more (in English and Spanish) and for additional information about the IDB Cultural Center and its programs, please call (202) 623-3774.

The IDB Cultural Center is located at 1300 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The nearest Metro station is Metro Center (13th Street exit). All the events are free of charge.

The Cultural Center home page is located at: www.iadb.org/cultural
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