



July 2007

**Multi-Media Exhibition of Contemporary Caribbean Art
On View at Brooklyn Museum August 31, 2007 through January 27, 2008**

The exhibition *Infinite Island: Contemporary Caribbean Art* examines how the Caribbean is defined, as both a real and an imaginary location. Including nearly 80 works in a wide range of media, created within the past six years by 45 emerging and established artists, it will be presented at the Brooklyn Museum from August 31, 2007 through January 27, 2008.

The exhibition approaches the Caribbean as a uniquely flexible space, where culture and history offer multiple possibilities of interpreting contemporary Caribbean experience. The mix of cultures created by slavery and colonialism, along with the modern Diaspora of Caribbean people migrating to metropolitan centers around the world, has shaped a dynamic culture incorporating distinct histories and artistic traditions. Despite their idyllic beauty Caribbean nations struggle with legacies of Colonialism and nationalism, as they search for new identities. These issues, along with the multiplicity of religious beliefs and contemporary popular culture have generated new perspectives on Caribbean identity and experience.

The artists represented have ties to 14 Caribbean nations: Barbados, Cuba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Monserrat, Nevis, Puerto Rico, St. Martin, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The exhibition will be organized around the themes of History and Memory, Politics and Identity, Myth, Ritual and Belief, and Popular Culture. These themes provide entry points into the complexity of artworks. The artists employ a range of materials that include traditional materials and industrial objects such as discarded automobile tires and plastic plates. These works include paintings, photography, prints and other works on paper, video, installation works, and sculpture.

Among the works included is *El Dorado*, a mixed-media piece by Hew Locke, who was raised in Guyana and now lives and works in London. The large-scale work is a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, adorned with low-culture objects to subvert the power usually associated with the monarchy. Nicole Awai, a Trinidadian now living in Brooklyn, has created a complex image with graphite, paint, nail polish and glitter on paper titled *Specimen from L. E. (Local Ephemera): Resistance with Black Ooze*. Jean-Ulrick Désert, a Haitian artist who now divides his time between New York City and Berlin, has created an installation of four mannequins clad in the flags of the former colonial powers that dominated the Caribbean titled *Burqa Project: On the Border of My Dreams I Encountered My Double's Ghost*. A diptych series by Quisqueya Henríquez, from Cuba and now living

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in the Dominican Republic, explores the contrast between the ideal as might be seen by a tourist alongside the reality of the poverty in which some Caribbeans exist, as reflected in a pair of sunglasses.

Organized by the Brooklyn Museum, the exhibition has been curated by Tumelo Mosaka, Assistant Curator, Contemporary Art and Exhibitions. A catalogue published by the Brooklyn Museum in association with Philip Wilson Publishers will accompany the exhibition.

The Brooklyn Museum Web site will feature a page with information about the newly commissioned and site-specific works presented in *Infinite Island*. Web visitors will be able to view images, submit questions to participating artists, and leave comments at www.brooklynmuseum.org/exhibitions/infinite_island.

A wide range of public programs will be presented in conjunction with the exhibition, among them a film series, lectures, artists' talks, and *Infinite Island* will be the theme of the October *Target First Saturday*.

Infinite Island is sponsored by Forest City Ratner Companies.

The exhibition is made possible by the Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin Exhibition Fund and the Barbara and Richard Debs Exhibition Fund. Generous support is contributed by the Peter Norton Family Foundation, the American Center Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding is contributed by the Friends of Brooklyn Museum, the Mondriaan Foundation, Amsterdam, and the Consulate General of the Netherlands. *AM NewYork* is media sponsor. The accompanying catalogue is supported by a Brooklyn Museum publications endowment established by the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$8; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$4. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.