



# MIAMI MEETS PARAMARIBO

CULTURAL CURRENTS III




# INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE TO SURINAME

From Thursday, March 30 – April 8, 2023, Readytex Art Gallery in Paramaribo Suriname will host an International Cultural Exchange Project (ICEP) in association with Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator of Miami, Florida. This is a unique experience, in which artists from diverse backgrounds, working in various media, converge to explore the concept of 'cultural Diaspora', intellectually and creatively. This is the 24th exchange organized by Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, and it is the third exchange with Suriname, as the host country. We welcome the partnership with Readytex Art Gallery.

Through workshops, chat sessions, studio visits, and cross-cultural dialogue centering around Caribbean identity, the exchange will serve as a forum for artists speaking with artists about issues confronting their professional and artistic development now and in the future. There is the Diaspora Vibe team of 13 visiting artists and 4 arts professionals from Miami-Dade County, USA.

Key components of this unique artist exchange are exhibition, all-day workshops, studio and gallery visits, artists' talks, presentations on intellectual property protection and licensing presentation, documentation, museum curatorial participation, and career development sessions for artists. The Exchange will address all genres of artworks in our discussions, multimedia installations, video, sculpture, printmaking, photography, ceramics, painting, and performance - with the aim to dispel the impression that art from this region is limited to folk styles and traditions. Artists will talk with artists about, hyphenated existence, the challenges encountered while producing artwork in the Diaspora, and border communities, creating and documenting generational memory, and documenting the process in Paramaribo, Suriname, side by side with Suriname contemporary artists and student artists.



The accompanying exhibition **“CULTURAL CURRENTS: Miami Meets Paramaribo”** showcases work from the visiting artists, and continues the work with Kurt Nahar, a Surinamese artist, and Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts scholarship graduate. The exhibition is scheduled to open at the Readytex Art Gallery on Thursday, April 6, 2023, from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, and will be on view for one month.

A one-day workshop has been organized to delve deeper into artists-to-artists conversations about exhibitions and structures of support for under-recognized artists who operate outside of the university undergraduate and graduate art programs, commercial galleries, or museums. The workshop will occur on Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm. All events are held at Readytex Art Gallery, and sites designated by Readytex Art Gallery. Events are free for artists and students.

Since its inception in 1996, Diaspora Vibe has functioned as a laboratory to promote, nurture, and cultivate the vision and diverse talents of emerging artists from the Caribbean Diaspora and other artists of color or from immigrant experiences. This project was conceptualized as an extension of DVCAI’s programming goals to provide artists with a contemporary visual sensibility and a safe space to explore and experiment with new forms and themes without having to deny or downplay strong connections with their countries of origin and the immigrant experience.

“This arts and culture exchange demonstrates that artistic expression transcends borders. Being Jamaican-born and raised, I am proud to curate this nationally recognized program. We are looking forward to the homecoming with Kurt Nahar and providing a platform for the artists to interact and showcase their work,” stated Rosie Gordon-Wallace, Director.

ICEP is supported in part by Miami -Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, The Miami-Dade County Mayor, and Board of County Commissioners, The Jorge Perez CreArte Award, The Readytex Art Gallery, the Consulate General of Suriname, Miami, The\_Hongs, and the Greater Miami Conventions and Visitors Bureau, Art of Black Miami.



## DVCAI



Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI) is a Miami-based 501(c)(3) organization. The mission of DVCAI is to promote, nurture and cultivate the vision and diverse talent of emerging artists from the Caribbean and Latin diaspora through our exhibition, artist-in-residence, international exchange and outreach programs that celebrate Miami-Dade's rich cultural and social fabric.

[www.dvcai.org](http://www.dvcai.org)



## ROSIE GORDON-WALLACE

*Founder / President / Curator*

Rosie Gordon-Wallace is a recognized curator, arts advocate, community leader and pioneer in advancing contemporary Caribbean diaspora art. She founded the Diaspora Vibe Culture Arts Incubator (DVCAI) to serve as a local and global laboratory dedicated to promoting, nurturing and cultivating the vision and diverse talents of emerging artists from the Caribbean Diaspora, artists of color and immigrant artists. Twenty-six years later, DVCAI is recognized as a global resource and one of the region's leading platforms dedicated to providing diaspora artists with a venue to explore and experiment with new forms and themes that challenge traditional definitions of the Caribbean and Latin American art. Her awards include the Knight Foundation Cultural Award, The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Third Annual Calabash Amadlozi Visual Arts Award, International Businesswoman of the Year, One of South Florida's 50 Most Powerful Black Professionals to name a few. In 2021, she was recognized by the Perez Art Museum Miami's International Women's Committee as International Woman of the Year. Her recent curations include *Inter | Sectionality: Diaspora Art from The Creole City* at The Miami Design District, and *Illuminate Coral Gables: A City Looks to Light*, city of Coral Gables, Florida, and more recently "*Chromatic Cogitations*" alumni artist in residence exhibition at Redline Contemporary Arts in Denver, Colorado, "*I M(O)ther: Threads of the Maternal Figure*" Katrina Coombs, at Sarasota Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida, and "*ORDER MY STEPS: There are no answers here, move on,*" Roscoe B. Thické III at Oolite Arts, in Miami, Florida.



## Sanjit Sethi

*President of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design*

Sanjit Sethi, the President of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, has two decades of experience as an artist and cultural academic leader. For the past three years, Sethi has served as the first Director of the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at George Washington University, where he oversaw the reestablishment of the historic art and design college as it integrated with the University.

Sethi's previous positions include serving as Director of the MFA program at the Memphis College of Art; Director of the Center for Art and Public Life, Barclay Simpson Professor, and Chair of Community Arts at the California College of the Arts; and Executive Director of the Santa Fe Art Institute. Additionally, Sethi has lectured and taught at the Srishti School of Art, Design, and Technology in Bangalore; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Saint Mary's College in London.



## Marlon Hill, Esq.

*Attorney / Cultural Ambassador*

Marlon A. Hill represents businesses, entrepreneurs and local and international governments in corporate, intellectual property, and government matters. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Marlon has served as a civic leader in a number of roles across South Florida, especially with African-American and Caribbean-American communities. He has been featured as one of the "outstanding members of the emerging generation of South Florida business and professional leaders" by the Daily Business Review. He is also a past recipient of numerous awards, including the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Bill Colson Leadership Award, M. Athalie Range Foundation Bridge Builder Award, and the inaugural Miami Foundation Ruth Shack Community Leadership Award.



## Alix Pierre, Ph.D.

*DVCAI Scholar*

Alix Pierre, Ph.D. teaches at Spelman College in the departments of African Diaspora and the World and World Languages and Literature. His research interest is in the artistic response of people of African descent to the state of diglossia in a (neo) colonial context. He is on the editorial board of Caribbean Vistas Journal: Critiques of Caribbean Arts and Cultures and Negritud: Journal of Afro Caribbean Studies. His publications have appeared in several journals and he is the author of *L'image de la femme résistante chez quatre romancières noires : vision diasporique de la femme en résistance chez Maryse Condé, Simone Schwarz-Bart, Toni Morrison et Alice Walker* (PAF : 2014).



## READYTEX ART GALLERY

Readytex Art Gallery believes in the strength and potential of Surinamese artists. We are deeply committed to their success. In the 29 years of our existence we have sculpted our own strategic long-term trajectory, which resulted in the overall advancement of the Surinamese art industry. We support and represent 19 emerging, mid-career and advanced visual artists who are ambitious and dedicated to their artistic vision. As intermediary between artist and collector we place value on the interests of both. We provide our artists with a professional foundation that results in an impetus for the development of their production and careers. Our international vision is to attain a worthy and well deserved presence for artists from Suriname in collections of the rest of the world.

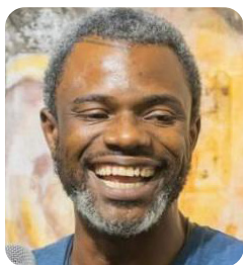
[www.readytexartgallery.com](http://www.readytexartgallery.com)



## **Monique W. NouhChaia SookdewSing**

*Director, Readytex Art Gallery*

As the only contemporary art space in Paramaribo, Monique's 30 years of business and cultural experience offers the project deep connections to the local arts ecosystem and tourism. Readytex Art Gallery, founded in 1993, sells and promotes a large variety of fine art created by Surinamese artists who are genuinely committed to their art. Her role as host supports DVCAI's exchange experience by providing access to local Suriname artists and a site for a physical exhibition. Her engagement with DVCAI has been one of partnership and collaboration since 2000.



## **Miguel Keerveld**

*Curator, Readytex Art Gallery*

Miguel Keerveld is a visual artist and Curator at Readytex Art Gallery who has participated with Readytex Art Gallery with DVCAI in 2013 and 2016. His role in the project will be to collaboratively mount an exhibition with US and Suriname artists, facilitating access to local artists studios, and speaking on the curatorial theme.



## **Kurt Nahar**

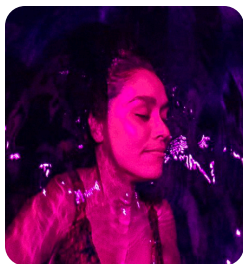
*Artist Administrator, Readytex Art Gallery*

Kurt Nahar, is a political artist and Artist Administrator for Readytex Art Gallery. Educated at Edna Manley College in Jamaica and an awardee of a 2016 residency at Joan Mitchell Center through DVCAI. Nahar has visited and exhibited in the US as part of DVCAI's exchange and exhibition programs (2000-2022). 'As an artist it is not my intention to simply create a pretty picture, because I have a greater purpose in mind. Through my art and poetry I hope to contribute to raising the consciousness of the general public and to encourage discussions regarding those rather forgotten but so important subjects. 'With my art I express my thoughts and emotions on several subjects related to the social and political circumstances in Suriname and other places around the world. Initially, many of my artworks and especially my installations cause a shock effect under the general public, but that is exactly my intention. I want to confront the public with those subjects which they are so often inclined to ignore or just close their eyes to. By doing so I hope to force people in Suriname to think about these controversial subjects and hope to break the tradition of silent acceptance in our country.

# FEATURED



Priscilla Aleman  
Reinier Asmoredjo  
Aisha Tandiwe Bell  
Amanda Bradley  
Thom Wheeler Castillo  
Paul Chang  
Michael Elliott  
Kenneth Flijders  
John Lie A Fo  
Roddney Tjon Poen Gie  
Vanessa Greene  
Shaundell Horton  
Sri Irodikromo  
Miguel E. Keerveld  
Rinaldo Klas  
Izia Lindsay  
Carol-Anne McFarlane  
Shawna Moulton  
Kurt Nahar  
Kit-Ling Tjon Pian Gi  
Sunil Puljhun  
Dhiradj Ramsamoedj  
Xavier Robles de Medina  
Asser Saint-Val  
Autumn T. Thomas  
René Tosari  
Steven Towirjo  
Cornelius Tulloch  
Wilgo Vijfhoven  
Roy Wallace  
Hanka Wolterstorff  
Kim Yantis  
Leonnie van Eert



## Priscilla Aleman

With a background in archaeology, Priscilla Aleman's practice retraces ideas around the afterlife, Pre-Columbian cosmology, and the interplay of cultures from the global south. Her Miami upbringing guides her work of understanding of the landscape's past traditions and its global history. She brings to life her own parallel and intersecting universes spiritually in process and form. Citing the ocean as a connective tissue Priscilla brings together materials collected from related regions throughout the Americas and Caribbean. She incorporates a multitude of deep field research and work to push the process of re-contextualizing old and new worlds. The arrangement of materials in her sculptural installations lends itself to be either collector, creator, analyst, believer, or practitioner. These sculptures, akin to offerings or altars, allow Priscilla to chart the waves and ways we are interconnected. Priscilla is inspired by powerful spiritual beings, their variations in written and oral histories and how they shape our understanding of ecological and energetic fields. She equates the practice of thoughtful assemblage with care and ritual, connecting the physical and sacred realms.



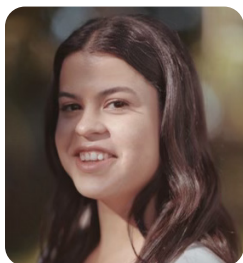
## Reinier Asmoredjo

Reinier Asmoredjo's art reflects his own genuine love for life and all of the beauty that it holds within. Of special significance therein is the cycle of life, often portrayed in his work with circular forms represented in for example the sun, fruit, animals, or rounded feminine curves, all elements critical to positive energy, freedom, sexuality, and fertility. He is fascinated by the diversity of cultures in Suriname, and Maroon women and women from his own Javanese background are often at the center of his compositions. He paints on canvas, paper and on glass or ceramic vases. His compositions are carefully thought out and all of his preliminary sketches are meticulously catalogued in multiple sketchbooks. Although his work is mostly figurative, the artist also creates more stylized and semi-abstract paintings. Reinier Asmoredjo earned his bachelor's degree at the AHKCO art academy in Suriname and is also a retired secondary school art teacher.



## Aisha Tandiwe Bell

Aisha Tandiwe Bell is first generation Jamaican and ninth generation traceable Black American. Her parents met at City College. Conceived in Tanzania and born in Manhattan, she was raised Bobo Shanti Rasta spending her early childhood on Bobo hill in Bull Bay, Jamaica. Inspired by the fragmentation of our multiple identities, Bell's practice is committed to creating myth and ritual through sculpture, performance, video, sound, drawing and installation. Bell holds a BFA, and an MS from Pratt and a MFA from Hunter College. Bell received a NYFA in Performance Art/ Multidisciplinary Work and has had artist residencies/ fellowships at Skowhegan, Rush Corridor Gallery, Abron's Art Center, LMCC's Swing Space and Workspace, The Laundromat Project, BRIC, Wassaic Projects, Interlude and more. She has been a fellow with DVCAI on International Cultural Exchanges (Jamaica 2012, Surinam 2013, Antigua 2014, Guadeloupe 2015 and 17). The Museo De Arte Moderno's Triennial 2014, The Jamaica Biennial 2014 and 17, The BRIC Biennial 2016, The Venice Biennial 2017, MoCADA, The Rosa Parks Museum, CCCADI, Columbia College, Space One Eleven, Welancora Gallery and Rush Arts are a few spaces where Bell has exhibited her work. Currently a 2022 Dieu Donne Workspace artist in residence, she lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children.



## Amanda Bradley

Amanda Bradley is a Belizean American artist based in Miami, Florida. She received a BFA in Photography from New World School of the Arts. Her work explores place and landscape as a means to connect and understand identity, belonging, histories, and relationships. Her work has been exhibited in The land remembers the flood at FAR Contemporary Gallery; From One Sea at Mt Sinai Medical Center; Work from Home at The Bass Museum of Art; Further than Memory, Intimate Distances at Artmedia Gallery; Notices in a Mutable Terrain at Fundacion Pablo Atchugarry; It will never become quite familiar to you at Oolite Arts, RCS: 76-100 at Swampspace Gallery; The Passing of Time at the Alfred DuPont Building; american fine arts, an allegory for americas at Art Movement LA, California and Current Projects in Little Haiti, Florida; and In This Moment at PH21 Gallery in Budapest, Hungary; amongst others.





## Thom Wheeler Castillo

Thom Wheeler Castillo lives and works in Miami, FL; Graduated from PNCA, Intermedia. Wheeler Castillo is interested in the landscape and ecosystems, past (art history) and present (Environmental Studies); he works from an interdisciplinary approach in his relentless pursuit of poetry, art history, earth science and anthropology. He is Co-director at Turn-Based Press, an artist-run print studio, whose mission is to offer facilities for printmakers in Miami, FL, as well as advance an appreciation for the medium and its history. He also produces works through experimentation and partnership that nurtures his visual work. One-half of the experimental Archival Feedback (along with Emile Milgrim), the duo engage in various critical dialogues of the moment, they approach the environment as a studio in the field, their ears and tools guiding questions and intentions. The fieldwork documents through sound a repeatable sensorial experience of the ever-changing landscape. AF expands their range working in other mediums including print-making, video, sound manipulation and installation and through collaboration with artists, musicians, and scientists.



## Paul Chang

Throughout the years the paintings of Paul Chang have alternated between the figurative and the semi-abstract, but nature has consistently been his most important source of inspiration. With acrylic paint he transfers organic shapes and flora and fauna from the tropical landscapes that so inspire him, onto his canvases in mesmerizing and brightly hued compositions. While many are executed in calming and harmonious palettes that exude a sense of peace and tranquility, some of his works are done in more striking and brighter color contrasts, which radiate a more vibrant energy and intensity. In addition to his acrylic paintings the artist also creates a number of giclée prints on canvas. His prints are all individually enhanced with acrylic paint, which means that each separate print is still an original and unique work of art. Paul Chang was born and raised in Suriname, educated at art institutes in the Netherlands, and has been living and working in the USA for many years now.



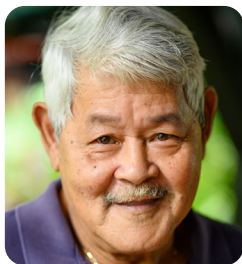
## Michael Elliott

Michael Elliott is typically known as a fine art painter, who nurtures his craft in the style of photorealism. Born in Manchester, Jamaica Michael had always been experimenting with different mediums and techniques in art through his early years. Realism became his preferred style during his tenure at the Edna Manley College of the Visual Arts and while attending, Michael developed a keen interest in photography to the extent that it also became an assisted medium in developing the look and feel of his paintings.



## Kenneth Flijders

Kenneth Flijders has a special affinity for the old and historical. Large-scale representational paintings of historical scenes from downtown Paramaribo, on canvas stitched together to meet the demand for size, are presently his area of focus. Historical materials, such as old and repurposed shutters and doors, are also recurring carriers for his work. His artistry also includes pristine tropical landscapes and realistic or abstract imagery that reflects on normal everyday Surinamese life, and which almost always manage to evoke a timeless nostalgia. Trained in various techniques during his art education in Suriname and in Jamaica, Kenneth Flijders creates paintings, sculptures and prints. Mahogany extract and natural palm fibers are often incorporated in his work.



## John Lie A Fo

John Lie A Fo creates bold and highly expressive paintings with a strong contemporary appeal. He is often inspired by the history and the diverse cultures of his homeland Suriname, and the unique balance between the natural and the spiritual worlds within its traditional communities. He takes elements from these and many other objects and subjects, locally and globally, and infuses them with his creative skills and lively imagination to create compositions with their own unique narrative. Lie A Fo also creates three-dimensional art objects and is skilled in multiple art printing techniques. John Lie A Fo was born and raised in Suriname, educated in the Netherlands and Belgium, and currently lives and works in French Guiana, where he is also heavily involved in art projects with disabled children. The large retrospective exhibition and catalogue in French Guiana in 2012/2013 and his solo exhibition *La Verticale de l'Équateur* at Habitation Clément in Martinique in 2015, are important highlights of his career.



## Rodney Tjon Poen Gie

Rodney Tjon Poen Gie wants to inspire other creatives and artists to use the wealth of materials that nature has to offer. While he received a formal art education in painting and drawing, the artist prefers to create three-dimensional artworks and he has become a versatile and skilled self-taught sculptor. He works and experiments with various materials that he finds in nature, which he then processes and manipulates in such a way that the end result is a unique work of art. Pits and seeds, clay, bauxite, wood and even animal bones, are all materials that can appear in his art. Rodney Tjon Poen Gie is most famous for his 'Art trouvé' sculptures of fantastical creatures created from whimsically shaped pieces of driftwood, which he finishes with acrylic paint in bright colors and abstract, often culturally inspired patterns.



## Vanessa Greene

A former National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, Vanessa Greene is an entrepreneur and a community development expert specializing in arts and cultural initiatives. With parallel careers in philanthropy, community development and the arts, Vanessa has successfully engaged in building community, expanding capacity, and creating opportunities in some of the nation's most challenging urban and rural environments for more than thirty years. She has long recognized the role of the arts as a strategy for economic development, job creation, and community place-making. Additionally, Vanessa organizes federally licensed "people-to-people" exchanges that facilitate meaningful contact and dialogue between U.S. citizens and the Cuban people. Vanessa earned a B.A. with Distinction in Political Science from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, and an Executive MBA from Queens College, Charlotte, North Carolina. She is a professional photographer and a visual artist.





## Shaundell Horton

Many of Shaundell Horton's artworks contain one or several nostalgic references to her country of birth, Guyana. Most of her works have earthy hued backgrounds, which she achieves by collaging used teabag paper to her surfaces. She is also known to incorporate crocheted doilies, embroidery and beading in various of her artworks, and they play an especially important role in her sculptural pieces. While the emphasis on her Guyanese heritage is gradually fading more to the background, her works do address the complex theme of identity in our multicultural Caribbean societies. Many of her works also touch on human expressions and emotions related to prevailing social and environmental issues. Shaundell Horton moved to Suriname with her family when she was 8 years old and received her art education at the Nola Hatterman Art Academy in Paramaribo.



## Sri Irodikromo

Sri Irodikromo takes great inspiration from Suriname's multicultural society. Her works invariably include patterns and symbols from the country's various cultures, and often also women or children dressed in traditional clothing. She enjoys giving her work a natural or organic look and often paints on roughly sewn together pieces of canvas, and finishes the work by tying top and bottom to bamboo rods. She increasingly works with natural pigments from products such as coffee, tea, turmeric and 'pemba' (white clay), thus also referencing Suriname's colonial history and diverse cultures. She is skilled in painting, ceramics, batik, embroidery, and various other art techniques, of which several are usually incorporated in each of her canvases. Sri Irodikromo received her formal art education in Suriname and in the Netherlands.



## Miguel E. Keerveld

Miguel Keerveld is an interdisciplinary artist with a focus on curating, intuitive coaching, and creative writing. While questioning race and gender with a critical perspective, he frequently pushes the boundaries to confront generalized ideas about the processes of identification and encounters, and engages in research and artistic productions that challenge colonization and representation. He uses theory to inform his writing process and social practice to strengthen social relations within communities, while also challenging problems of power scale and local knowledge. Miguel has a background in Civil engineering, and has also worked on several projects related to leadership, quality management control, artistic research and social practice. He has participated in various art projects and residencies in Brazil and Mexico, among others. As part of his enrollment in THIRD Cycle Research at the Amsterdam University of the Arts, the Netherlands, he is currently curator-in-residence at Readytex Art Gallery in Paramaribo, Suriname.



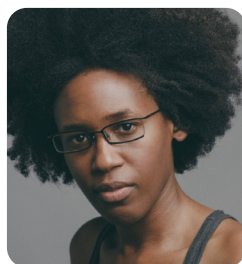
## Rinaldo Klas

Rinaldo Klas' art reflects admiration and deep concern for nature and the environment. With his productions he urges mankind to live in respectful harmony with nature. He considers it his responsibility as an artist to increase awareness about the urgent need to protect our environment. He does so by creating vibrant acrylic compositions on canvas or paper, in which man, animals and nature are intricately intertwined, accentuated and animated by line drawings. His inclination to capture movement with lines impels him to periodically deviate from the figurative to more abstract forms and hand-drawn monoprints, resulting in an interesting body of work. Educated first in Suriname and subsequently in Jamaica, Rinaldo Klas has an extensive art career that includes broad experience in Suriname and abroad.



## **Izia Lee Lindsay**

Izia Lee Lindsay is a mixed media artist who explores with both digital and traditional media. His artwork addresses symbolism in Caribbean iconography that is rooted in tradition but interpreted with contemporary ideas. Lindsay uses bold, geometric shapes that juxtapose and intersperse to form his multilayered artistic pieces. The thematic whole is a cultural narrative reproducing the dualities of his turbulent, cosmopolitan, Caribbean life. His research examines material culture, indigenous societies and the ever-changing landscape of the Caribbean while his subject matter tackles issues of identity and class in a post-colonial society. Lindsay is currently a lecturer in Miami, Fla.



## **Carol-Anne McFarlane**

Carol-Anne McFarlane creates artwork that brings this consciousness to the forefront so people can be intentional when responding to what we experience in the world. Her artwork is based on intersectional feminist ideas regarding gender and identity politics because self-examination leads to self-improvement and empowerment. These ideas are explored in various media including painting, drawing, video, and alternative media. McFarlane pairs her experiences with social critique to share her vision in challenging and reconstructing current social structures.



## **Shawna Moulton**

Shawna Moulton is a multi-disciplinary artist and art educator based in South Florida. She was born in Freeport, Bahamas, raised in Kingston, Jamaica, and then migrated to the United States. At an early age, she discovered the magic of art-making, manifesting works of drawings, paintings, sculptures, and paper-making. In 2015 she graduated from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Arts with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Her art journey has taken her to the Awagami Factory in Tokushima, Japan, where she learned traditional Japanese paper making. She has several years of experience working in museum education departments such as the Museum of Contemporary Art (North Miami), the Norton Museum of Art, the Young At Art Museum, and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Arts Museum. Her role has been engaging the public community with conversations around art, teaching art techniques, and designing art curriculums.





## Kurt Nahar

Kurt Nahar uses his art to express his thoughts about critical social and political issues in Suriname and abroad, in a bold and purposely confrontational manner. By doing so he hopes to break the trend of silent acceptance and aims to stimulate discussion. His technique is inspired by the era of Dadaism and collage techniques and everyday objects are thus characteristic elements in his art. In his artworks he also explores the effects of colonialism, slavery, immigration, and diaspora on the shaping of identity and the perception of self and others, throughout the Caribbean and the Americas. As a result, his most recent works reflect a more personal journey through his own childhood memories and heritage. Kurt Nahar received his art education in Suriname and in Jamaica, and has participated in exhibitions, art projects and residencies worldwide, including - since 2018 - the yearly international cultural exchange (ICE) projects of Miami based DVCAI (Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator).



## Kit-Ling Tjon Pian Gi

Central in the art of Kit-Ling Tjon Pian Gi are women and children, nature in its physical as well as its spiritual form, and characteristic elements from the diverse Surinamese society. She also enjoys creating a fusion between visual art and the art of words, which is manifested in numerous paintings as well as in several books that she published to accompany specific art collections. Her recent artworks are an exploration into heritage, the Surinamese Alakondre lifestyle, and the effects of migration on identity. Kit-Ling Tjon Pian Gi studied Visual Art and Art Education in Suriname and the Netherlands. Starting first as an art teacher and lecturer, she became a full-time visual artist in 1988, with an emphasis on painting and drawing. She has worked on many multidisciplinary art projects and was also involved in video art. In 2013, the artist received the Bridget Jones Travel Award from the Society of Caribbean Studies in the UK.

Starting to write articles on Surinamese artists, Kit-Ling has published several booklets through the years, and now in 2022 'Het Alakondre Drakenmeisje' (Alakondre Dragon girl), an Alakondre novel and artbook.



## Sunil Puljhun

In his key artworks Sunil Puljhun focuses on the darker side of human nature, and subjects such as war, greed, man's hunger for power, poverty and abuse are thus recurring themes. The threat to children is often at the center of these works. These themes are further enhanced by his color palette of mainly black and gray with some white or red details. These themes are further enhanced by his color palette of mainly black and gray with some white or red details and often also by texts. In most of his works he combines various techniques including painting, drawing, collage, stenciling and digital art. He even sets some artworks partially and briefly on fire to achieve a dramatic charred effect. Sunil Puljhun received his art education and his formal teachers training in Suriname and is a longtime teacher at the Nola Hatterman Art Academy in Paramaribo. Since 2015 he also serves as the Academy's coordinator.



## Dhiradj Ramsamoedj

Dhiradj Ramsamoedj's artworks are based on carefully thought-out concepts, many of which are meticulously worked out in old textbooks. His oil and acrylic paintings, while usually featuring ordinary people in everyday circumstances, often include subtle symbolisms which are in fact critical commentaries on multiple controversial issues affecting society today. His three-dimensional sculptures and installations made up of many small parts reference the fragmented makeup of our diverse Caribbean societies. Of those, his man-sized Flexible man textile sculptures and his Adjie Gilas installation have been included in several important international exhibitions. His most recent artworks address the key social narratives and the economic and political complexities that challenge the sustainable growth and development of his richly diverse home country, Suriname. Dhiradj Ramsamoedj received his formal art education as well as his teachers training in Suriname and has enjoyed enriching art experiences in other countries regionally and in Europe.



## Xavier Robles de Medina

Xavier Robles de Medina is a visual artist with a rapidly developing art career, who was instilled with concepts of aesthetics early on by growing up with a beautician and a dentist as parents and an artist grandparent. His tools range from (oil) brushes, graphite pencils, ink pens, and dental scalpels. He works in various media, but his latest works are intricate, modestly sized, ink and graphite artworks on paper, including portraits. "My work starts where contemporary attitudes intersect painting's immense historical timeline. I examine a personal set of images to aid in transmitting my own narrative, simultaneously satisfying an affinity for delicate craftsmanship." In 2019 Xavier Robles de Medina received his MFA degree from Goldsmiths, University of London and he currently lives and works in Germany, from where he participates in art exhibitions all over the world.



**Asser Saint-Val**, originally from Haiti, moved to South Florida, where he earned B.F.A.s in painting and graphic design from the New World School of the Arts. His art has been exhibited in Florida and New York and throughout the Caribbean and is represented in numerous private collections. Saint-Val is a painter, sculptor and installation artist. His quasi-figurative images, by turns humorous and grotesque, bring together ideas, people and incidents central to modern debates about the definition and valence of neuromelanin. Rendered in a blend of traditional art mediums and a wide range of unconventional, organic materials — coffee, chocolate, ginger and, tea among them - his pictures, objects and environments are a surreal fantasia on such loosely linked themes as under-recognized African American inventors, the politics of sexual desire, and the complex aesthetics, narratives and metaphors that attach to the organic compound neuromelanin.



## Autumn T. Thomas

Autumn T. Thomas is an interdisciplinary artist currently working in wood sculpture. Her work challenges the boundaries of visual literacy: hundreds of cuts placed into the wood transforms it into soft, twisting forms, mimicking the endurance required to thrive amidst the oppression and marginalization of women of color; each cut represents a time in which Thomas felt cut down by society. Minimal in design, Thomas' work personifies analogous, brown bodies as whispering forms of subversion, affecting prejudice by way of perception and visual literacy. Thomas is sponsored by Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator and National Performance Network. She received her MFA in Book Arts and Printmaking from The University of the Arts, Philadelphia in 2017 and her BFA in Visual Communication from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2015. She lives and works in Denver, CO.



## René Tosari

Throughout his very active art career, René Tosari has always created highly engaged, politically and socially motivated artworks. Previously known especially for his graphical prints, his current works consist mostly of acrylic paintings that display his great social and environmental engagement. In his paintings, René Tosari typically combines oils and acrylic paints, thereby achieving a unique and highly recognizable texture. Organic shapes and outlined figures or symbols from themes related to nature, ecology and his social environment, are purposely incorporated to create compositions that speak their own universal visual language. Educated in the arts in Suriname and the Netherlands, René Tosari spent the majority of his career alternately living and working in both countries. In 2018 his extensive career and oeuvre were documented and published in a detailed monologue called René Tosari. Diversity is Power.





## Steven Towirjo

Steven Towirjo is a self-taught ceramic artist, who had his first encounter with clay and ceramics while working in the studio of his uncle, well known Surinamese visual artist Soeki Irodikromo ( 2020). From the moment he got his first piece of clay to experiment with, Steven Towirjo became hooked. The artist creates ceramic sculptures in bold organic compositions that have a primal, yet simultaneously modern appeal. His sculptures are always finished in natural earthy hues, achieved with oxides. Many of his compositions are inspired by motifs from his Javanese background, while his more structured pieces are influenced by his brief time studying and working in the field of construction in the Netherlands. But nature, and lately also a fascination with the natural yet wondrous capabilities and design of the female reproductive system, are also sources of inspiration.



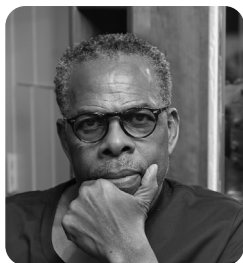
## Cornelius Tulloch

Cornelius Tulloch is a Miami, Florida-based interdisciplinary artist and designer. With work transcending the barriers of architecture, visual art, and photography, Tulloch focuses on how creative mediums can be combined to tell powerful stories. With inspiration from his Jamaican and African American heritage, his work expresses how bodies exist between cultures, borders, and characteristics to create spatial impact. His work has been exhibited in fairs and museums including The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington D.C., Pulse Art Fair, Miami, Florida, and the Museo Nazionale Delle Arti Del XXI Secolo, Rome, Italy. In 2016, he was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts and is included in the permanent collection of the Studio Museum in Harlem. He is a winner of the Your Portrait 2020 competition, and recipient of a 2020 Ellies Creator Award from Oolite Arts.



## Wilgo Vijfhoven

Front and center in the art of Wilgo Vijfhoven are always women. He is captivated by their beauty and intrigued by their strength and resilience when facing the numerous challenges that women are confronted with, even today. His nude subjects, usually depicted in carefully outlined, subtle, yet sensual silhouettes, are often painted in striking red against a bright yellow background. He occasionally adds bright greens or blue contrasts. His basic forms and compositions often come about organically by allowing his watered-down acrylic paint to flow naturally over his canvas. Since 2018 he also uses a pyrography technique to draw artistic images on repurposed wood and existing wooden objects. The artist and former art teacher Wilgo Vijfhoven received his art education in Suriname and in Jamaica.



## Roy Wallace

Roy Wallace travels with the DVCAI team as Photographer and Logistics Manager. He is detailed and enjoys the mechanics of preparation and documentation. The DVCAI artists depend on Roy to bring equipment to enhance and support their presentations. His technical ability provides our team with practical "can do support" and building infrastructure for our exhibitions. "I produce my image in response to the demand to be an image. And yet it is a decentering act: there is no transparent, total subject; there is full knowledge of self." Roy loves photography and is a committed student of the craft. Born in Jamaica, he is an avid tennis player and coach. Educated at The University of Florida and Florida International University he is a core working member to the DVCAI Team.



## Hanka Wolterstorff

The ceramic sculptures of Hanka Wolterstorff are usually made with various thin sheets of clay that she brings together in flowing compositions with graceful curves and extended tips. They are occasionally combined with pieces of Surinamese wood and finished in acrylic paint or ceramic glazes. Rarely based on a preconceived design, her compositions come about very organically, driven mostly by her urge to transform the natural clay into something beautiful. But still, many of her works are highly reflective of elements from the tropical nature that surrounds her.



## Kim Yantis

Kim Yantis has a background in visual art, cultural programs production, and management. Yantis holds an MFA from Florida International University and a BFA from Moore College of Art and Design for Women. Kim has attended specialized seminars from the Kennedy Center's DeVos Institute on Capacity Building, Board Development, and Marketing for the Arts. Based in Miami, Florida for twenty years, she has worked as an Instructor at Florida International University and Miami Dade College, and served as Cultural Arts Curator for the Deering Estate from 2012-2018. In 2019, Yantis became a professional member of both the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and Grant Professionals Association (GPA). Operating as "Kim Yantis Arts" since 2019, she advises organizations and individuals on programs and strategies. She is a grant writer who actively supports the creative community and serves annually as a volunteer panelist, reviewing and rating grants for the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' Grant Programs.



## Leennie van Eert

Ceramicist Leonnie van Eert searches for a connection between the earthly and the spiritual. She takes inspiration from authentic tribal forms and customs, shapes from nature, and from her social work with special needs groups and Indigenous communities in Suriname's interior. In her whimsical and organically shaped compositions, she often incorporates other natural materials such as bamboo, jute, rope and seeds. In her more recent work she explores feminine-moon-spiritual experiences and the earth-cosmos connection. Leonnie van Eert was trained in ceramics by the famous Surinamese artist Soeki Irodikromo after moving to Suriname from the Netherlands in 2000. She currently lives and works alternately between these two countries.

## **Special Thanks:**

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[www.dvcai.org](http://www.dvcai.org)

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