



The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
&
The Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the
United Nations Offices at Geneva

Present

Jamaican in Perspectives Clay & Colour

an Exhibition of Art featuring the work of

Michael Escoffery
& Gene Pearson

Geneva, Switzerland

November 21 to
December 9, 2011



Message

from the Director General of WIPO

It is a privilege for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to host an exhibition featuring the work of two talented Jamaican artists - Michael Escoffery and Gene Pearson – as well as a performance of Caribbean music by Alexia Gardner and her accompanying band. I thank the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations Office at Geneva, for sharing with us this remarkable exhibition and for bringing a piece of Jamaica's rich culture to WIPO.

The copyright-based industries – music and the arts - are an important part of Jamaica's economy and society, contributing significantly to employment and economic growth. Jamaica's music and arts are also among the nation's most successful exports – the popularity of Reggae music around the world is sufficient testimony of this success.

Jamaica has embraced intellectual property as a means to add value through its cultural exports. The international intellectual property system offers a means through which inventors and creators the world over can protect their works and obtain reward for their efforts, while making them available to the public. At WIPO, we work closely with our 184 Member States to promote a better understanding of the benefits of an efficient, effective and balanced intellectual property system.

I wish you great pleasure in viewing this wonderful exhibition and musical performance.

Francis Gurry
Director General
World Intellectual Property Organization

Message



from The Jamaican Permanent Representative

Jamaica is recognised for its contributions to the creative industries and sports at the international level. The Intellectual Property Rights enjoyed and exercised by its athletes, artists, writers and entertainers not only help preserve and build upon an extraordinary legacy shaped by icons like Bob Marley, it sustains a vitally important part of the Jamaican economy and society

Jamaica recognizes the important role that IPR plays in protecting the interests of athletes, artists and entertainers and sustaining the business of sports and the creative industries. Jamaica's National Development Plan "Vision 2030" accords the creative industries and sports very important places in the country's thrust for sustainable development and growth.

Transforming much of the dynamism of Jamaica's culture into lasting images falls to the visual artists whose paintings and sculpture depict the varied elements of Jamaican life and interpret the common experiences of humanity in visions that transcend the roots from which they spring. The exhibition of works by Michael Escoffery and Gene Pearson epitomizes this vision and role embraced by our visual artists. In their work lies the excitement of colour and shape that reflect the vitality of the Jamaican spirit as well as the intensity of Jamaican life. Hard work, deep reflection and lighthearted fun are intertwined not mutually exclusive - this message is etched in Michael Escoffery's drawings and fired in Gene Pearson's clays.

The Permanent Mission of Jamaica is honoured to join WIPO in presenting the work of these two distinguished artistes whose lives and livelihoods are defined by their Intellectual property and the exercise of their rights in it.

Wayne McCook
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
United Nations Offices at Geneva



Michael Escoffery was born in Kingston, Jamaica to parents who were painters and imbued him with a deep love and capacity for artistic expression. Living in New York but deeply connected to his Jamaican roots Escoffery sees the world without limiting borders and boundaries as he explores the human experience. He has exhibited in over 160 solo exhibitions and over 200 group shows worldwide and has been the subject of numerous television, radio, newspaper and magazine profiles. His work is published in over 70 books worldwide and in 9 languages.

Outspoken, controversial and sensitive to his position and responsibilities as an artist Escoffery refuses to be tied down to any particular artistic mode, and has never been shy or tentative about expressing his view and artistic vision, as he seeks to broaden the scope and visual content of his audience's perception. Escoffery's on-going analysis of contemporary life as it crosses the boundaries of time and space, underlines the complex richness of his paintings. With each body of work, he creates a new reality, engaging the viewer in the mystery of the relationship between color, form, and texture. His work affords us the opportunity to contemplate various aspects of an ever-changing reality.

In his MAJOR SERIES "ABSTRACT REALISM" Escoffery's demonstrates his on-going fascination with relationship between abstraction and realism. In "ALL THAT JAZZ" A series of collages, works on paper and oils on canvas, Escoffery explores the fascinating world of Jazz music deep in message and symbolism and in "ICONOGRAPHY" he captures in captivating colours on canvas everyday objects that embody elements of vibrant Jamaican culture.



A Bird in Hand
(Oil on Paper 2011)



Lean on Me # 8
(Oil on Paper 2011)



Table For Two
(Oil on Paper 2011)



Cassandra
(Oil on Paper 2011)



Cassandra and Daughters
(Oil on Paper 2011)



Biography

Pearson



Gene Pearson's work has been admired by artists and collectors over several decades. His art has an elemental beauty which has inspired many collectors of his work to include several pieces in their portfolios. The former Jamaica School of Art lecturer paints and sketches, but it is his signature Nubian masks and heads which have cemented his international acclaim as an artist and sculptor with a unique and powerful perspective on the spirit of his country and the lands of his ancestry.

Mr. Pearson's creative career, spanning five decades, has seen his art placed in many of the fine homes and galleries of the world. His work represents the highest ideals of Jamaican art and he has been recognized by his country with the Order of Distinction O.D., an honour conferred by Jamaica on distinguished sons and daughters for outstanding contributions to the nation. His works have been chosen by the Government of Jamaica to be presented by Prime Ministers to visiting dignitaries, including former US President William Clinton and Former South African President Nelson Mandela.

Gene Pearson, born in 1946 in St. Catherine, Jamaica, is a 1965 graduate of the Jamaica School of Art (Now the Edna Manley School for the Visual Arts). He has taught at several high schools and the Jamaica School of Art; and exhibited widely in Jamaica and overseas including The Victoria and Albert Museum in London and UC Berkeley in Berkeley, California.

His work appears on the Jamaican \$1.40 stamp released on 26th April 1993 depicting "Jamaica Ceramics" from the Hardingham Collection. It has also been presented in film and television series, publications and leading collections internationally, including the private collections of internationally acclaimed artistes, political leaders and several corporate collections.

The artist splits his time between his home in Red Hills Jamaica, the Potter's Studio in Berkley, California, and visiting exhibitions in Dallas, New York, London, Miami, and California.



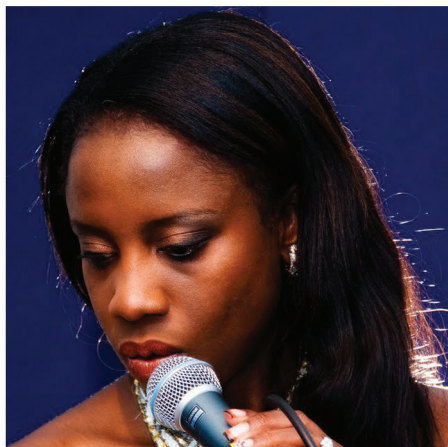
Bumpy Head Gal



URN-Mountain Spirit Series



Mask



Alexia Gardner

Smooth Reggae, Jazz & Soul

Alexia Gardner is a UK born singer with deep Jamaican Roots. She began her career touring the British Cabaret Circuit in England and Wales during her teens. She toured with her gifted sister - Paula Gardner - as a sophisticated “*A capella*” duo called ‘*High Profile*’ and got much acclaim for their wonderfully harmonic voices. A solo career took her across the Mediterranean on luxury Cruise Liners as well as to the luxury hotel groups in Asia. Part of her appeal stems from her Jamaican parentage where she is able to incorporate everything from Standard Jazz Classics, Latin grooves, a touch of Reggae vibes, soft Bossa Nova styles to gentle, familiar ballads.