

# Blackra Diasp Visual Art



Symposium - Exhibitions  
Film Presentations  
February 13th-14th 2009

Frank Collymore Hall

Organized by: National Art Gallery  
Committee, Barbados

Curator: David A. Bailey MBE

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Asociación Internacional  
de Críticos de Arte

National  
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Gallery Committee

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'09

FEBRUARY



Asociacion Internacional  
de Criticos de Arte

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**Black  
Diaspora  
Visual Art**  
Symposium - Exhibitions  
Film Presentations

## THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY COMMITTEE

In collaboration with AICA Southern Caribbean, the Arts Council of England and the International Curators Forum presents:

BLACK DIASPORA VISUAL ART:  
SYMPOSIUM, FILM PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS.

February 13 and 14 2009- Frank Collymore Hall, Bridgetown

As part of the planned events marking the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the National Art Gallery Committee has invited curator David A. Bailey MBE to organize a series of symposiums and exhibitions that explore visual art in the Black Diaspora. A number of leading scholars, curators and artists who have made key contributions in this area are invited to Barbados to participate in a dialogue with the local/regional Caribbean community. It is envisioned that this event will provide an opportunity for the Barbados art community and wider local audience to participate in the discussions and will present contemporary Barbadian art and artists to a panel of distinguished experts in related fields.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium, to be held during February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2009, takes as its starting point Stuart Hall and the question he poses in his essay called "Modernity and its Others: Three Moments in the Post - War History of the Black Diaspora Arts".

The essay offers an analysis of three 'moments' in the post-war black visual arts in the UK. The main contrast identified is between the 'problem space' of the artists—the last 'colonials'—who came to London after World War II to join the modern avant-garde and who were anti-colonial, cosmopolitan and modernist in outlook, and that of the second generation—the first 'post-colonials'—who were born in Britain, pioneered the Black Art Movement and the creative explosion of the 1980s, and who were anti-racist, culturally relativist and identity-driven. In the work of the former, abstraction predominated; the work of the latter was politically polemical and collage-based, subsequently embracing the figural and the more subjective strategy of 'putting the self in the frame'. This generational shift is mapped here in relation to wider socio-political and cultural developments, including the growth of indigenous racism, the new social movements, especially anti-racist, feminist and identity politics, and the theoretical 'revolutions' associated with them. The contemporary moment—less politicized, and artistically neo-conceptual, multi-media and installation-based—is discussed more briefly.

The symposium will explore some of these themes in Hall's paper with particular reference to their applicability to the contemporary Caribbean context and the relationship of the contemporary moment to earlier developments. Questions include:

- Is there a Caribbean canon?
- Can we discuss a Caribbean aesthetic in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- What are the institutional models?
- How do we identify the different ways forward?

The Symposium takes place at the **Frank Collymore Hall in Bridgetown** in conjunction with a number of site-specific artists' projects.

There is no fee for participation but pre-registration is required.

Ministry of Community Development and Culture, Culture Section,  
Bay House, Bay Street, St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies 15135  
Telephone: 1-246-228-7523, E-mail: nagcsymposium@gmail.com



PROGRAMME



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## PROGRAMME

### DAY 1 – Friday February 13th, 2009

**8:30 – 9:00am** Registration

**9:00** WELCOME address

Alissandra Cummins GCM, Chairperson National Art Gallery Committee, Director of the Barbados Museum

Dr. Jeannine Comma, “Lesley’s Legacy”

Steve Blackett, Minister of Community Development and Culture

David A. Bailey MBE, International Curator’s Forum and Senior Curator, Autograph ABP

**9:45 – 10:45** KEYNOTE address by Stuart Hall - Cultural Theorist, Professor Emeritus, Open University, London

DIALOGUE WITH David A. Bailey MBE

**10:45 – 11:30** RESPONSE – Professor George Lamming - Brown University

11:30-12:30 - PANEL ONE:

Discussion of Stuart Hall’s paper and Lamming’s response

Chair - David A. Bailey MBE

David Scott: Columbia University; Editor – Small Axe

Alissandra Cummins: NAGC

**LUNCH: 12:30 – 2:00**

2:00 – 4:00 - PANEL TWO:

Is there a Caribbean canon; can we discuss a Caribbean aesthetic in the 21st century?

Chair - Allison Thompson, NAGC, Barbados Community College

Veerle Poupeye: Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

Krista Thompson: Northwestern University, Illinois

Leon Wainwright: Manchester Metropolitan University

4:30-6:00 - FILM PRESENTATION:

Kara Walker with Teka Selman

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