

# Festival an Koule

An Exhibit of  
the Vibrant  
Haitian Art of  
Queens

Presented in partnership with the Friends of **Queens Library**



*Keyi Ble (The Wheat Pickers) by Chantal Paret Antoine*

## EXHIBITION DATES

NOVEMBER 19 – DECEMBER 31

## LOCATIONS

### CAMBRIA HEIGHTS

Community Library  
218-13 Linden Boulevard  
Cambria Heights

### ROCHDALE VILLAGE

Community Library  
169-09 137 Avenue  
Jamaica

### SOUTH HOLLIS

Community Library  
204-01 Hollis Avenue  
South Hollis

### ST. ALBANS

Community Library  
91-05 Linden Boulevard  
St. Albans

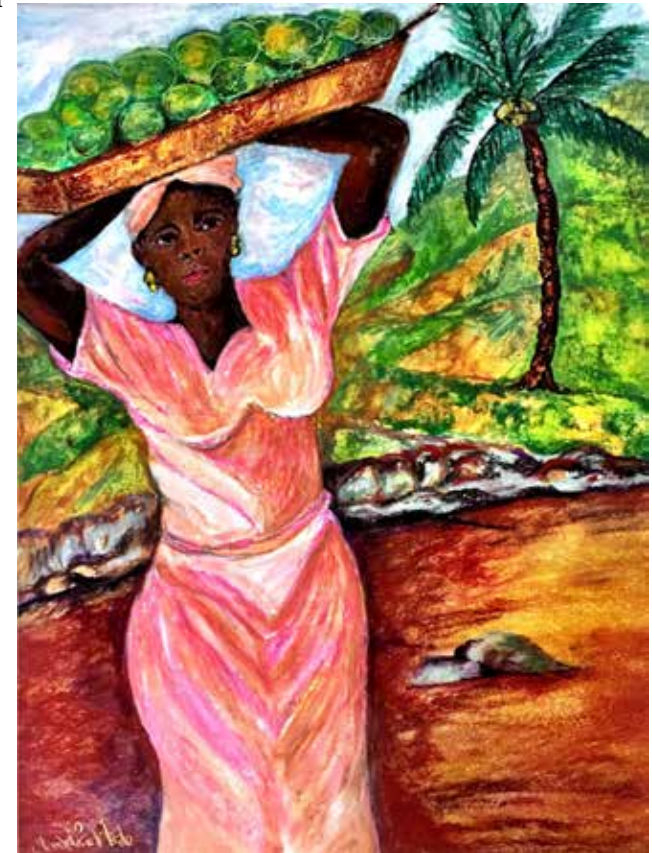
# Intro

*“If you are of a country,  
if you are born there,  
then you have it in your  
eyes, your skin, your  
hands, with the hair of  
its trees, the flesh of  
its soil, the bones of its  
stones, the blood of its  
rivers, its sky, its taste,  
its men and women...”*

– Jacques Roumain (Haitian Author)

Haiti is a country of great beauty, a vibrant Caribbean culture, and a heroic history, populated by people with a natural gift for storytelling. Haitian art reveals the riches of Haiti’s spirit, rendered in vibrant colors and bold patterns.

This six-week art exhibit will spotlight a variety of established and emerging Haitian artists – many Queens locals – and the vibrant culture that is present in the communities of Cambria Heights, Rochdale Village, South Hollis and St. Albans.



Machan Kokoye (*The Coconut Vendor*) by Chantal Paret Antoine

# About Haitian Art

Haitian art has been traditionally divided into two distinctive genres: Naïve (Primitives) and The Moderns. Naïve (Primitives) is derived from folk art traditions, and the artists typically do not have formal training - resulting in an artistic innocence and independence from academic tradition. The subjects are depicted in the traditional forms of Vaudou, simple village and market scenes, rendered in vivid colors. Other scenes include detailed historic settings, the lush jungle, and religious depictions of paradise.

Conversely, The Moderns are schooled artists who have examined and integrated aspects of various international painting styles, particularly the French art tradition. The Moderns often feature similar subjects of Haitian art as the Naïve, including landscapes, history and current events, and various aspects of Haitian culture. However, the Moderns also draw inspiration from renowned styles such as surrealism, pointillism, expressionism, impressionism and abstract art.



# The Naives Schools of Art

The Primitive or Naïve genre of Haitian artists are influenced by their sense of place, creating schools of painters from these distinct regions in Haiti-- the Artibonite Valley, the Southeastern coastal city of Jacmel, the Northern city of Cap-Haitien, and the mountain home of Saint Soleil.

The **Artibonite** style commonly depicts scenes of country life. These artists originally used distinctively colored and detailed images on a black background to emphasize their colors. Often they depict themes of fantasy, politics and human relationships.

**Jacmel** introduced the “School of Beauty” in which skilled artists create delicate paintings based on their reverential love of the beauty of nature and of women. They dream of perfection in their fantastical landscapes, inhabited by beautiful women in romantic scenes.

**Cap-Haitien** artists started their own school of art after following the footsteps of the Haitian Master, Philome Obin. This school of art is characterized by refined linear elements, meticulous paint handling, and subject matter that encompasses both daily life and the area’s rich history.

The **Saint-Soleil** artists banded together as part of a cooperative to represent the style with intricate patterns with saturated color. This school began much later, in 1978, and although the group disbanded, artists continued to pursue the work and to inspire future adopters of this genre.



# The Moderns School of Art

The Moderns school represents various styles, and has emerged as a new tradition in which artists master the rules of art and painting to present a modernist interpretation. The Moderns are not categorized by a sense of place as the naïve painters, but by artistic styles that are recognized internationally. The past political climate of Haiti has also brought a more realist aspect of historical painting, and often depicts the realities of Haitian life, including the immigration of Haitians by boats and the devastation of the 2010 earthquake. The renowned Haitian-Puerto Rican artist Jean-Michel Basquiat has also inspired a new wave of Haitian art. His art includes abstract collage visual art depicting scenes not just of Haiti, but of the new lives of American-born first generation artists.



# Artist Biographies

alphabetical order

## CHANTAL PARET ANTOINE

**ART STYLE** Naïve; Impressionism.

**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Oil Pastels, Pencil Drawings, Water Color, Painting

**EXHIBIT HISTORY** "Krik, Krak", a solo exhibit-45 paintings-African American Museum, Hempstead, New York- Bread and Roses Gallery, New York, NY, International Monetary Fund Gallery, Washington DC, (MUPANAH), Musee du Pantheon National Haitien, Port-au -Prince, Haiti, Waterford Library, Connecticut.

**ART EDUCATION** self-taught / BFA-Fashion Institute of Technology, New York-Interior Architecture and Design / MAS-Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York-Creative Arts Therapy

**ARTIST STATEMENT** "My art originates from a place of loss, longing and nostalgia, from the fact of having been uprooted from my birthplace. I seek to communicate through my art this rich and resilient culture of my native land and its creative existence against all odds. My current series are drawings, a modern medium for a traditional form of art."



## ISAAC AUGUSTE

**ART STYLE** Expressionism; Avant-Garde; Surrealism

**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Metal Sculpture (brass, sterling silver, copper), masks, sunglasses and jewelry, body painting , makeup artistry, dance, and living art.

**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Exhibiting since 1999 in various venues in Haiti-Hotel Olofson, Petionville. Creative Assistant for "Le President, a T'il Le SIDA" (The President Has AIDS) directed by Arnold Antonin, featuring Haitian actor Jimmy Jean Louis. Artistic Director of TELEMATV, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

**ART EDUCATION** Apprenticeship with famed Pericles Atelier, Haiti. Protégée and student of well-known Haitian artist, LOUIZOR.

**ARTIST STATEMENT** "I am fascinated and interested in the concealment (i.e. masks that we wear, eyewear that shields our eyes, the make-up we add to our faces, the clothes we wear) of identity. These expressions of identity are inherent of the strength and creativity of the men and women of Haiti."



## SAMUEL AUGUSTIN

**ART STYLE** Historical; Social expressionism

**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting, collaborative mixed media, art making and education.

**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Pieces have been included in many private, public and corporate collections, including The North-East Gallery of the Visitor's Lobby, United Nations. Exhibits have also been held at Conde Nast, The Haitian Renaissance Foundation, The Consulate of the Republic of Haiti, New York.

**ART EDUCATION** Masters of Fine Arts, Brooklyn College. Teaching Certificate at Touro College, Long Island.

**ARTIST STATEMENT** "I often consider myself as an "Artist Reporter" because of my ability to create some small but important details of life and sometimes dire circumstances of the Haitian experience, such as the Haitian life in Batey in the Dominican Republic which has captured my attention for years. These are the very issues which motivates my art. My love for my country and my fellow Haitians comes through strongly in my art."



**LUDWIG BORGELLA****ART STYLE** Photography- social and cultural commentary**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Camera**EXHIBIT HISTORY** IMAJDAYITI -Street Vendors Series, Nassau Community College-Cultural Project**ART EDUCATION** self-taught / Nassau Community College- Associate Degree in Photography**ARTIST STATEMENT** *"It is my ultimate focus to educate, inspire, and enlighten all about the beauty of Haiti through my lens."***PATRICIA BRINTLE****ART STYLE** Expressionism, Naïve, Creative and Social Symbolism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Represented by Agora Gallery in Chelsea NY, Medalia Gallery in NY, Nader Haitian Art in NY, Artists Haven Gallery in FL, Gallore Gallery in CT, Nicole Gallery in Chicago and the Bridgeman Art Library in London, UK.**ART EDUCATION** Self-Taught**ARTIST STATEMENT** *"I do not follow any particular school but rather I let my rich Haitian culture, and its vibrant colors, be my creative muse. Through my art, I explore the universality of human emotions and social issues."***MICHAEL BRUDENT****ART STYLE** Naturalism, Cubism, Expressionism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting, Calligraphy, Graphic Design, Stage Decoration, Decorative Art**EXHIBIT HISTORY** From 1974 to present, participated in groups and solo exhibits in Haiti, France and the United States.**ART EDUCATION** Graduate Studies, Ecole Nationale Des Arts, Port-au-Prince, Haiti Graduate Studies- National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, Haiti**ARTIST STATEMENT** *"Painting is for me what the sun is for the plant."***JESSICA CARTER****ART STYLE** Modern, Abstract, Expressionism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Mixed Media, painting, repurposed materials (wood, glass) cartography**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Varied exhibits at the United Nations-Secretariat Building, New York, Madison Square Garden, New York**ART EDUCATION** Self-taught / Bachelor of Science, Major in Psychology and Sociology.**ARTIST STATEMENT** *"I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it"...Pablo Picasso***CROSHEN (Crossley Rupert Enrique)****ART STYLE** Modern Realism, Surrealism, "L'ecole De La Beaute" (School of Beauty)**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Exhibiting since 1974- Italian and Dominican Embassies, SONO Art Celebration, Connecticut, Governor State House of Boston, Massachusetts, Bunker Hill Community College, MA.**ART EDUCATION** self-taught / College Fernand Prospere, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**ARTIST STATEMENT** *"I paint what is noble and beautiful. It is my dream, to paint, a dream, that comes true on the canvas."***SHUBERT DENIS****ART STYLE** Surrealism Naïve, Symbolism, Historical**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Exhibits nationally and internationally in Holland, Germany, Venezuela, United States. Prominently featured in many galleries and private collections.**ART EDUCATION** Self-Taught**ARTIST STATEMENT** *"In my work, I focus on the essence of my subject and attempt to present a clean direct statement. I want my paintings to reflect the clarity of water and the pure harmonious quality of light"***EMMANUEL DOSTALY****ART STYLE** Naïve, Social Symbolism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Exhibit- Solo Showing at the Haitian-American Cultural Institute. Represented in by several galleries, including Red Carpet, Marassa, Mapou, and Georges Nader.**ART EDUCATION** Self-Taught**ARTIST STATEMENT** *"My dream is to see both fine arts and the crafts made in Haiti reach such a level, as to eliminate the abject poverty and sufferings of my country"***JEAN R DULCIO****ART STYLE** Abstract, Pop Art, Collages, Landscapes, Portraits**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting (acrylic and oil), water colors**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Paintings exhibited at Harvard University and Boston University. Jean's work has also been presented in various galleries and are part of many private collections.**ART EDUCATION** Self-Taught / Fashion Institute of Technology-Fine Art Classes**ARTIST STATEMENT** *"I wake up every morning with the belief that each day will bring something. It could be a chance meeting with a stranger, an encounter that brings back forgotten memories, or a simple stroll that elicits a sense of calm. This inspiration is what motivates me to keep on painting."***MIRIAM DUARTE GALLAROB (M Grace)****ART STYLE** Portraits, Impressionism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting, Drawings**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Private Collections and Local Exhibits in the Queens Area.**ART EDUCATION** Self-Taught**ARTIST STATEMENT** *"I love drawing portraits showcasing the natural expression in people. My art has made me more self-confident and making art at this stage of my life is something that I really enjoy."*

**JOCELYN GOODE****ART STYLE** Modern, Visual Arts**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Multi-media murals, graphic arts, drawing and art instruction, Literacy Mentorships**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Many Interactive multi-media murals in the Queens Area, including a multi-mural at The Art of Restorative Justice. Adjunct Professor-Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn, New York, Head of Art Department at George Jackson Academy, East Village, New York.**ART EDUCATION** Bachelor of Fine Arts- Amherst College - Magna Cum Laude, Post-Graduate Studies at SFAI, San Francisco Art Institute, Associate Degree of Arts-Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, San Francisco.**ARTIST STATEMENT** "My art is a living and vital form within my community, promoting self-esteem, social aptitude and financial literacy. I continue to be inspired by making my own personal art as well."**Dr. FRANCOIS-RICLES GARCIA****ART STYLE** Hyperrealism, Neoclassicism, Lyrical Romanticism, Historical, Symbolism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting, ceramics, water color, book illustrations**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Exhibits in Haiti, Switzerland, Canada and garnished awards in Spain.

Queens Museum, Flushing Meadows, New York, American Museum of Natural History, New York, MUPANAH -Port-au-Prince, Haiti among many others.

**ART EDUCATION** Self- Taught / University of Medicine, of Seville, Cadiz, Spain-Doctor of Ophthalmology**ARTIST STATEMENT** "L'art est pour moi un elixir qui me calme ou m'enflamme; tout depend de mon etat d'ame." / "Art for me is an elixir, a potion, which relaxes me and invigorates me. It all depends on the state that I am in, deep in my soul."**ELIE LESCOT****ART STYLE** Surrealism, Modern, Impressionism, School of Beauty**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting (acrylic)**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Exhibits at many prestigious galleries, with works included in private and public collections in Africa, Asia, America, Europe and the Middle East.**ART EDUCATION** Academie Des Beaux Arts, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. VOTEC 22 School of Graphic and Plastic Art, Oklahoma, US**ARTIST STATEMENT** "The objective of my painting is beauty; beauty that is seen in a smile, in the reflection of a glance. My beauty is simple and sensual. I paint beauty as a folkloric renaissance."**FRENAL MEZILAS****ART STYLE** Modern, Surrealism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Drawing, Painting**EXHIBIT HISTORY** KINKILI Casa Africa, Mexico, Commemoration of Haiti's Earthquake, 3rd year, Haitian Consulate of New York, NY**ART EDUCATION** Visual Arts-National School of Arts-"ENARTS" Ecole Nationale Des Arts, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.**ARTIST STATEMENT** "I am influenced by the famous Haitian artists, Bernard Sejourne and Dieudonne Cedor. And of course the great artists of the world, Picasso, Braque, Monet, Dali, and Kadinsky."**GINA SAMSON****ART STYLE** Modern, Expressionism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting, drawing, collage**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Has exhibited at the Queens Museum of Art, Harlem Fine Arts Show, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, among several others.**ART EDUCATION** Art Student League-Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, New York University School of Continuing Education, New York.**ARTIST STATEMENT** "Art reflects the importance of creation and imagination. My art explores the memories of Haiti and the migrant experience. My recent series focuses on the relationships between visual arts and music, especially the jazz I listen to while painting."**REGINALD ST. FORT****ART STYLE** Modern, Surrealism, Abstract, Expressionism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting, art show curator**EXHIBIT HISTORY** Since 1984, with his first exhibit at Tilden High School, Brooklyn, New York. Reginald's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including shows in Antwerp, Belgium, and Cry Chapel, Brussels, Belgium. Reginald curated The Middle Passage at the Brooklyn Public Library, Flatbush Branch, New York.**ART EDUCATION** Self- Taught / Bachelor of Philosophy, Hunter College. Masters in Library Science, Pratt University, Brooklyn New York.**ARTIST STATEMENT** "(R+?)=!" "An equation which summarizes Reginald, with universal curiosity, interest and creativity observed in life personifies the varied and dialogue expressed in my art"**CARLO THERTUS****ART STYLE** Modern, Expressionism, Social Symbolism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting, collage, art education. Gallery Instructor and Owner, The-R-Tus, Lynbrook, New York.**EXHIBIT HISTORY** "THE END..THE BEGINNING" The White House, Washington DC, President Bill Clinton, "BETWEEN MAN AND GOD", The Flagg Gallery, New York.**ART EDUCATION** Self-Taught**ARTIST STATEMENT** "It is time for the world leaders to consciously understand the privilege of life and as humans, to do the right thing for the future of humankind. My paintings are expressing my hope and desire for all humanity to live in peace."**PATRICK G. WAH****ART STYLE** Modern, Surrealism**ARTWORK MEDIUM** Painting, Sculpture**ART EDUCATION** Self-Taught / Academie Des Beaux Arts, Port-au-Prince, Haiti / French Institute Esthetic School, Haiti, Graphic NAPOLI Art, LI, New York**ARTIST STATEMENT** "Painting is my life. It is what I do best. I have always strived for excellence, even as a young artist in Haiti. I learned very early if you provide excellent work, people respect you. Your name lives on through your work. I have great respect for Haiti where street art, with meager means, has reached utmost dignity, and substance."

# Festival an Koulè

## An Exhibit of the Vibrant Haitian Art of Queens

NOVEMBER 19 – DECEMBER 31

**CAMBRIA HEIGHTS** Community Library

**ROCHDALE VILLAGE** Community Library

**SOUTH HOLLIS** Community Library

**ST. ALBANS** Community Library

This art exhibit is presented in partnership with the Friends of Queens Library of Cambria Heights, Rochdale Village, South Hollis and St. Albans communities. The mission of the Friends of Queens Library is to strengthen Queens Library through legislative advocacy, program development, community outreach and fundraising.