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A peek into Haitian culture



[Vanessa Beauman](#)
Record Staff Writer

A group of globe-trotting, ambitious artists will offer locals a look into paradise using different forms of artistic media Friday at 7 p.m. at Gallery F, 1404 W. Berrendo St.

The event, entitled Jacmel Mwen Fou Pou Ou, or Jacmel, I'm Crazy About You, aims to show Americans a side of Haiti - in particular, its port town of Jacmel - they may not have known existed. Well, at least that is what project organizers Bayard Jean Bernard and Flo McGarrell are hoping. When guests enter McGarrell's dwelling provided through the Roswell Artist In Residence program Friday, they will be met by the sounds, colors and allure of Haiti's people and culture.

The multi-faceted show has already opened in Chicago and it will show in Roswell before moving on to San Francisco. Video of Jacmel's annual carnival and of its residents will be shown on television sets and projected onto large windows so that people outside can see. Paintings and photographs of Haiti will be on display.

Bernard, who was born and raised in Jacmel, shot the video for the event. He said the videos will help include the sounds of the streets of Jacmel, right down to its forms of transportation.

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From left, artists Ebby Louis Angel, Flo McGarrell and Bayard Jean Bernard are putting the finishing touches on the art show, Jacmel Mwen Fou Pou Ou, at McGarrell's studio Wednesday afternoon. (Daily Record/Vanessa Beauman)

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CITY CALENDAR

Bernard said his vision is to submerge guests into Jacmel through art.

BUSINESS REVIEW

"I just want to put (guests) into the vibration of Jacmel," Bernard said. Although the show can offer a good representation of Jacmel, Bernard said there is nothing like seeing Jacmel in real life.

RDR MAGAZINES

"Everyone who visits (Jacmel) falls in love," he said. For the time being, he will have to settle on bringing Jacmel to the world.

ADVERTISING

"It's a mission, definitely," Bernard said of sharing visions of his hometown.

CHURCHES

McGarrell - a sculptor who is currently exhibiting some of his work at the Roswell Museum and Art Center - has traveled to Haiti more than once and had the chance to be an artist in residence there before coming to Roswell. He met Bernard and fellow artist Ebby Louis Angel in Haiti.

RDR HISTORY

McGarrell said the event combines two perspectives of Jacmel: one as an insider and the other, as an outsider.



"(The show) is a portrait of the town," McGarrell said.

For McGarrell, the show is not only an opportunity to present art; it is personal. He has traveled extensively to Haiti and is concerned about the negative stereotypes associated with it.

"People get a negative impression of Haiti," McGarrell said. He hopes that after coming to the show, people will see the positive, beautiful things about Haiti that he discovered during his travels.

McGarrell also wants to generate more communication between American and Haitian artists. The show is being mounted by the Haitian and American Artist Exchange, a grassroots project which aims at presenting the artists' view of Haitian culture.

Although it is free and open to the public, the show will be accepting donations to help the HAAE. After Friday's open house, McGarrell said the show will be available by appointment until Monday.

For more information about the event, call (415) 992-6356.

Reader Comments

Posted: Thursday, February 07, 2008

Article comment by: [Hilary Harris](#)

I have a long-time interest in Haitian art; how wonderful to be in Roswell at the moment this is happening. Hilary Harris

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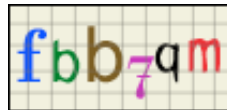
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