

FEATURES

'Growth' showcases Caribbean art

EXHIBITION is a key word in the world of art – an action word that Thru Contemporary Arts intends to make good use of.

Thru Contemporary Arts is a project initiative of the Trinidad and Tobago-based, non-profit arts organisation GETTHRU (www.getthru.org), and is dedicated to showcasing contemporary artists and their

work in countries that lack access to nontraditional art forms and techniques.

"Thru Contemporary Arts focuses on exhibition, education and the preservation of contemporary arts, and houses and maintains a juried collection," says the organisation's director and abstract media artist GA Gardner.

The project is all about acquiring and promoting the

artworks of prominent contemporary artists at various stages of their careers and exhibiting them at spaces such as museums and galleries – spaces where under-served communities can be introduced to and educated by them.

"As part of this project the organisation publishes and prints arts catalogs and books on various contemporary arts

subjects. Thru Contemporary Arts is a collaboration of artists, writers, and curators," Gardner explains, with a mission to "open a dialog about art and creative approaches to addressing societal issues in various countries."

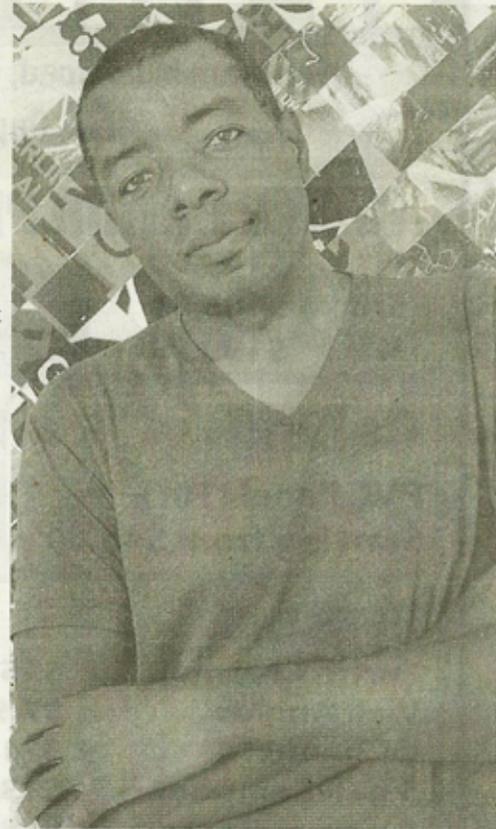
The organisation's members are fresh out of its first international exhibition in Cologne, Germany. The exhibit was titled "People Textures Environments" and featured Thru Contemporary Arts' permanent art collection. It was deliberately timed to coincide with the well-known Art Cologne in an effort to promote and augment artistic exchange.

The collection ranged from mixed media, collage, photography, digital, installation and paintings to embroidery – all the works of artists from TT, Germany and the US.

"People Textures Environments' links the commonality of human experience, using art, be it representational or abstract, to discuss people's concerns and environments," Gardner expounds.

Among the artwork featured were the embroidery series of artist Adele Todd "Police and Teif", which looks at crime and punishment in TT, the photography series of Clary Estes, "People's Health", which examines the health care system in China and the gap between the haves and haves-not, Judith Ganz's mixed media techniques and abstract and surreal approaches to interpreting surroundings, and Gardner's abstract media pieces.

From May 29 to June 27 the organisation will feature more of



THRU Contemporary Arts director and abstract media artist GA Gardner.

its international art collection at its second exhibition, titled "Growth", at The Caribbean Museum Centre for the Arts in Frederiksted, St Croix.

"Growth is intended to expand conversation about the nature and boundaries of art in the Caribbean by exposing the public to a variety of approaches to creating contemporary art," Gardner explains.

It will feature works by Judith Ganz, Beata Obst, Adele Todd, Clary Estes, Georg Gartz, Ute Bartel, Lap Yip, Christoph Bartolosch, Almuth Baumfalk, Julia Neuenhausen, Sarah Knights, Todd, Estes, Ganz and Gardner.