The University of The West Indies
Department of Creative and Festival Arts

VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION 2012
**GreenModGro**

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**Artist’s Statement:** *GreenModGro* is a modular shelving system inspired by my love of plants and the outdoors. Vein, leaf and branch growth patterns of a few local plants were studied in order to graphically re-create abstracted modular representations. These modular patterns were then extended into 3-dimensions to become contemporary, modular cubby storage for the avid young nature-lover like myself, literally wishing to bring more ‘green’ into their life.

**Cristie-Ann Tajudeen** is a graphic designer currently pursuing her BA Degree in Visual Arts at UWI. Since acquiring her Associate Degree in Visual Communications Design at John Donaldson Technical Institute in 2002, Cristie-Ann has been working as a graphic designer in advertising and publishing. In a bid to further enrich her design career, she enrolled in UWI in 2009. During the past three years she has been studying several specialised areas of design such as three-dimensional design, costume fabrication, product design and landscape design.
Melvern K. Isaac sees himself as a problem-solver. From a young age his inquisitive mind has always led him along paths to understand how things work and how to make them better using simple adjustments and tweaking. However, despite his scientific academic background Melvern has a God-given talent of creativity and which caused him to pursue a BA Visual Arts specializing in Design, after which he would like to venture into the field of architecture. He simply could not give up his passion for anything artistic and creative.

“My Design revolves around university living. University living is about living from a small room and maximizing is capabilities. Therefore, the multifunctional furniture is not only a fad but it is becoming a necessity to avoid clutter. This will allow for more open space in a room while still having various functions available to the user.”
Natrisha Gangapersad is a final year Design major hoping to work in the fantastic and constantly re-inventive world of design. She hopes to be original and mind-teasing with her new ways of expressing old and personal hardships experienced within her time spent at this institution. Her range of skills include, designing and building her various designs, fabrication processes, painting and drawing and so on.

“It was a struggle to get here but I’m finally at the end. This piece incorporates my personal knowledge and expertise in fabrication as I grew up in the welding and fabricating trade. It symbolises my personal plight through UWI and my triumphant conclusion. I hope to be innovative and original in my approach to the fascinating world of design.”

**Tears Don’t Fall**

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Obeah
A series of black and white patterns based on Leroy Clarke’s “Douens”

Sian Fernandez
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Sian Fernandez is a past pupil of Holy Name Convent and was awarded a scholarship by the Past Pupils Association. Even though she is the youngest in the final year design class, she is very meticulous when it comes to her work and her art. She has loved art for as long as she can remember and has a passion for everything artistic she does.

“Obeah” is a series of black and white patterns inspired from the drawings of Leroy Clarke’s, “Douens”. These drawings were chosen because of the use of multiple lines and forms. The title “Obeah” was selected because when interviewed about his style of art, Leroy Clarke simply stated it as being “Obeah”. Thus this became her “Obeah”.

In the future she hopes to find a career in either advertising or own her own company to continue her love of art and design.
Andre Comeau was born in Trinidad and from a very young age he developed a passion for music and art. He is a grade 8 violinist and a founding member of the Alternative Quartet but this does not deter his love for art and design. From painting in various mediums to conceptualizing unique and modern designs, he is a perfectionist by nature and will go to any length to channel this into his work.

**Artists statement:** The Subseco table (Latin for: to cut away from) is based on the idea of levitation, pixilation and the flow of water. It is a coffee table made from pixilated squares and at first glance appears to be floating into a chandelier made from the same pixilated formation. The table apart from being aesthetically unusual functions as a place to store various items as it has cubed compartments scattered throughout.

As for Andre’s future, he sees himself combining his music and art to making them work hand in hand with one another, while pursuing both in a professional capacity.
It’s Not Mine But... I Want It!
An Evangelical Comic Book for Children

Anastazia G. Hamilton

Anastazia is a Trinidadian and a member of the New Testament Church of God Tunapuna. She has been involved with the student Christian ministry, Interschool/Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, since her high school years at Tunapuna Secondary School. She has witnessed young people that have grown up under Christian parentage losing faith in what they once believed. She considered the possibility of improper teaching of Biblical principles and salvation during the early childhood years as a reason and therefore was motivated to pursue this illustration project for her Final Year Project at UWI.

One of her goals is to use her design training on the Christian mission field.

Anastazia G. Hamilton
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Kwame Mitchell first attended Success Roman Catholic School before he moved to his mother’s native land of Grenada for one year. After returning to Trinidad he attended St. Mary’s College where he studied Visual Arts and Sciences for both CXC and CAPE. In 2007 he won a National Scholarship for Art. He hopes to pursue a career as a Design Ethnographer in years to come.
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I like to say that my career in Art started when I was 5 years old, when I first discovered I had the ability to visually duplicate images both from memory and physical form. It flourished as I was encouraged to develop my ability throughout my primary and secondary school life, and then my reputation was built around being an aspiring artist. My student career at the University of the West Indies however, was responsible for real growth and exploration of my artistic persona. The decision to specialize in design at this level was essentially part of my strive to find my place in the Art and Design world, to develop my niche and to establish some degree of artistic status and experience.

Graceful and unusual forms always captured my attention, even in the simplest detail, thus the choice to design a piece modeled by the influence of form was inevitable. Apart from this piece being influenced by an architectural legend’s source of inspiration, the goal was to design something that would be subtly unexpected and innovative in form.
Peace in A Leaf
Dionique de Nobriga
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Short person, Big Emotion and BIGGER Passion. As a designer these are my watch words. I thrive for people to see my ability and work, not necessarily me. My designs speak for me in the best voice and the loudest. I am Dionique de Nobriga. My entire life has been surrounding by art and beautiful experiences that take your breath away. My goal as a designer is to create breath taking experiences with my designs.

My inspiration for this piece stems from the idea of basking under a tree in the middle of the day drinking in the cool breeze. Hence peace in a leaf was born. This chair intends to hug you and not let go. The walls of this chair go from light to dark as the environment changes. Peace in a Leaf was designed for the University of the West Indies St Augustine main campus. It's intentions is to change the thinking of seating in this situation.
Indigenality Eco Designs

Dianne Dennis

I am a high school teacher and I have been an entrepreneur for as long as I could remember. I have a deep passion for displaying the different aspects of nature as art. One of my greatest desires is to see a thriving economy in Tobago emerging from such arts.

Bone jewellery is unique, fashionable and natural. It is inexpensive to produce, extremely durable and adaptable in various artistic expressions. The unusualness of bone jewelry moves me as a lover of nature and in some ways connected to my African ancestry.
Ideal Beauty in Trinidad Carnival 2012
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Betty Avery is an international exchange student from Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. She is 21 years old and is currently finishing her third year of Fine Arts, but has another year of studies to go for her 4 year Fine Arts program at the University of Waterloo. She has always been interested in the concept of beauty and how it is constructed in different societies and cultures. She is also very interested in colour theory and how different colours mix together to create new colours as well as how colours work together to bring out other colours. She was interested in combining these two interests into one work as a study of ideal beauty in Trinidad Carnival.

Artist Statement
Ideal Beauty is no new concept, but it is something that factors into the lives of every individual in some way. In looking into ideal beauty in Trinidad Carnival 2012, I found that the notion of ideal beauty was not present; I saw that women of all shapes, sizes, ethnicities and ages were dressed up in carnival costumes. From this, I realized that the notion of ideal beauty does not exist in Trinidad Carnival.

My work is exploring just that, the idea that ideal beauty does not exist and there are no requirements in terms of beauty and body type in Trinidad Carnival. In creating my piece, I chose to focus on the female body alone, and to portray different female bodies that I saw while watching Carnival in Port of Spain, as beautiful, radiant, colourful, curvy and skinny.
**The Human Condition**

Nathan Forde

**Artist's Statement:** My work addresses notions of both idealism and proportion. I approach these notions through the depiction of the human figure. For me painting is like editing a photograph in order to achieve "my perfect picture". The computer software called Adobe Photoshop is used worldwide to edit and enhance images – I use my artistic ability instead. In my work, I tend to focus on the details of the human figure, where I depict the figure in a specific space. I begin with a pencil sketch of the figure on the canvas, getting the proportions as precisely as possible. Although I apply paint with a brush, I usually smudge areas with a piece of cloth to disguise brush marks to convey a more smooth but sketchy finish.

**Biography:** Born on September 2, 1989, Nathan Leonardo Forde began painting at the age of two. When he was three years old, he was featured as a young artist in the Trinidad Guardian newspapers. As a child Nathan spent most of his spare time painting and drawing cartoon characters. He entered Palo Seco Secondary School in 2001 and was tutored by his art teacher, Hilma Smith-Barnes, a well-known Jamaican artist, who has exhibited both locally and internationally. Under Mrs. Barnes’ influence Nathan developed his skills, particularly in drawing and painting the human figure. He continued his education at Iere High School and was successful in the GCE Advanced Level Art. Currently Nathan is a third year level student of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, pursuing the Bachelors of Arts Degree in Visual Arts. While he explores other art forms, his passion still remains drawing and painting the human figure, capturing it in all its nuances.
I am Delisa Rollocks hailing from the sister isle of Tobago, I bring to you a personality that is contagious and a warm smile that is sure to greet you. Having a great interest for culture, it was at the tender age of seven, I discovered my talent for the visual and performing arts. It was the love for my Art teacher Mrs Marcia Des Vignes that inspired me to produce work. Noticing my ambition to produce, she nurtured my ability to the point where I was able to give productive criticism to my peers and it was from that moment, I knew that I wanted to teach Visual Arts. Specialised in using acrylic paints and the palette knife, I create pieces with a lot of movement and texture that gives you the urge to touch. Motivated by my mother to pursue the Art form, I sacrificed being a dancer to explode the visual world, this being the cultural aspect showcased in most of my work.

For my final year exhibition, I decided to incorporate two art forms they being Dance and Visual, to produce intricate but more so fascinating images. Instead of trying to recreate a photograph image of the dancer in motion, I decided to focus on the movement of the costume as it tells its story.
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**Biography:** Esther Griffith is a keen observer of human behaviour, especially as demonstrated through body language and facial responses. For this reason she is drawn to the human figure, particularly the face, in her efforts to see beyond the masks that are presented to the true inner thoughts and feelings of the individuals she encounters. Her passion is oil paint and its seemingly limitless possibilities in depicting nuances of colour, texture and movement.

**Artist Statement:** External stimuli exert much pressure on our internal faculties, resulting in emotional responses that are often muted because of strict socialization. In my recent work I embrace the role of an alchemist, harnessing the power and properties of oil paint through the journey of experimentation. My objective is to peer into the psyche of the figures I depict, to communicate their true intimate thoughts and feelings as well as to evoke passion, despair, even hope in the viewer.
The Playground
Richard Dominique Tudor

Artist statement: In recent times, I have been preoccupied by my search for understanding. This has led me to a questioning of the morality of (wo)man. This present work entitled “The Playground” marks the beginning of a series, which offers a fresh look at the seven deadly sins and other concepts that mark Christian morality from a local context. The human body becomes an intriguing point of reference. I focus on rendering human form with simple gestures and skittish abstractions. Along with the physical dimension, the work also conveys the mindscape. My aim is to captivate the onlooker and stir him/her to question life – to converse with him/her.

Artist’s Bio: As a practitioner of the Visual Arts for the past twelve (12) years, Richard Tudor has investigated the intricate dimensions of two dimensional works. He experienced a colourful childhood while growing up in Chaguanas and this lent to Richard’s fascination with the Visual Arts. His passion stemmed from an appreciation of impressionism, realism, surrealism and the various facets of contemporary art.

His drawings emphasise on capturing the various weights in line to depict the gesture and other works that bend to realism capture moods evoked by the subject chosen. His paintings are playful and loose, emerging from a vibrant palette that bursts with colour. At present he has completed the Certificate level of the Visual Arts program at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine and teaches within the distant fishing community of Guayaguayare.
Jennifer Hutchings has been a student of the University of the West Indies for the past six years initially pursuing a Bachelor’s of Science in Civil Engineering, she eventually transferred to the faculty of Humanities to follow her ingenuous ardour for Visual Arts. She participated in the Redbull “Art of Can” Trinidad competition in 2009 where her sculpture “Witch Doctor” placed second. Although currently working on a fine art project, Jennifer also has a keen interest in costume fabrication and its relationship to sculpture and three dimensional design, hand built ceramics, and jewellery design.

This project covers the exploration of proportion, capturing the subject matter’s abnormalities or oddity, his identity, as well as his identity in relation to society. A greater interest in the viewer’s inevitable mode of judgement based on another human being’s shell as well as one’s automatic reaction based on another’s opinion that all feed into the diseased creature that we all generate in ourselves will be explored. The subject matter is illustrated to showcase points of interest of his form, in addition, the fragility and naivety of the subject matter’s personality. The main objective of the project is for the viewer to in actuality look at Nigel for the first time.
Light and Shadow

Marcus Copeland
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Artist’s Statement: The term “DRAWING” has always defined adequate verbal definition. If I had to define it, I would say it is a gestural, structural idea, an emotion, an experience or an object that is usually rapidly executed. As an artist I’m not only interested in recording but also in executing. I’m amazed at how often drawings seem to have equal or more vitality than ‘finished’ work. I am drawn to the challenge of bringing life to human figures and portraits on different grounds. My preferred media are watercolours and charcoal as they relate to my style of capturing the essence of my work really quickly.

Marcus Copeland grew up and resides in Siparia. He attended Palo Seco Government Secondary school where most of his subjects were technical and craft, including Technical Drawing, Wood Work (Building Technology) and Visual Art. He worked at several different institutes before he came to university, continuously creating, drawing and painting wherever he was. He is a registered secondary school teacher, and is currently doing agriculture, with emphasis on aquaculture.
**Artist’s Statement:** When I learned of the ancient art making technology of Encaustic I was immediately attracted to it. Encaustic which means to ‘burn into’ is a mixture of Bees wax and pigment. This medium bridges the gap between sculpting and painting and presents itself as an avenue for wide exploration and personal expression. It is also an artistic conduit for the old becoming contemporary.

**Marisa S. Ramdeen** was born and raised in Arima. She attended North Eastern College where she pursued both Science and Art. She earned a BA in Business Administration (with Honours) from Anglia Ruskin University in 2005. After leaving the banking industry to pursue a career in fine art she became a student of The University of the West Indies. In 2009 she earned a Certificate in Visual Arts and received the Pat Chu Foon Award. During 2011 she was awarded the Eastman-Christensen Prize for Excellence. At present she is pursuing a BA in Visual Arts (2012). She currently teaches Visual Arts at NorthGate Collage, St. Augustine.
Poised
Lydia Sookdeo
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Originally from Cedros but now reside in Chaguanas. I am presently a teacher alongside pursuing the final year of the BA degree in Visual Art at The University of the West Indies. I have always aspired to capture the beauty of line and shape in nature and the human form.

This piece explores the concept of scale and balance. The larger than life work creates greater intimacy with the form and allows me to express my experience from a unique perspective. While exploring the human form, I choose to work in three dimensions as it allows me to create in the physical. Its scale and posture challenges me to consider its contours and underlying structure with greater sensitivity.
Life: An Excerpt
Bindumatie Deokinath

I am a Penal girl born and raised, a blessing that I always acknowledge. As the eldest of four children, life was packed with weekend family adventures exploring the corners and crevices of Trinidad, daily bickering and never ending periods of sibling rivalry. This wonderful blend of bonding, fighting and bickering was the perfect backdrop to constructing a bonded, vibrant and loving household. I am a product of deep traditional values set in a contemporary time.

I am the embodiment of the ‘multi-tasker’. I juggle the complexities of being a mother of three incredibly energetic and wonderful children. I am an active daughter to two, selfless, aging parents. I am a sister who would do anything for the best siblings in the world. I am an aunt who loves and is loved by a niece and three nephews. I am a wife. I am a householder. I am a student. I am a teacher. I am a rescuer of stray animals… I look forward to creating representations of my soul, raising my children, caring for my family and staying youthful even in my older days.

Beneath the many masks that we wear lays the core of who we really are: raw, unpolished, vulnerable; simply, we are human beings. Within the span of our lives we construct ourselves to meet the perceptions of what is expected of us. Humanity has become reserved, inorganic, soul-less to a large extent. What we lack is honest communication, the revealing of one’s soul without fear of judgement, reprimand or consequence. My work in steel is a brutally blunt representation of me, whom I am inside; tough, raw, testicular, but soft, gentle and vulnerable, ravaged by time and experiences. We can only accept and deal with ourselves when we expose our inner selves, our souls. Hence my art is my therapy, optimistic, representative of me but symbolic of all who see within it.
Figures of Speech
Nickheela Bennett

Nickheela Bennett is a 21 year old from Guaico and has a love and fascination for three dimensional construction. She states “My artwork depicts a contravened state of mind which draws a connection between mind and body. The execution of this body of work has been driven by personal tragic thoughts and feelings. My artwork was created considering its relation with YOU, the viewer who must have experienced some form of personal anguish.”

In “the discharge of human exemption from agony,” eventhough the human bodies appear trapped in the surface of a wall, gestures of escape are dramatised to imply that the mind never fails to seek freedom through the thick walls that inhibit it and that it is never impossible. She also states “We will always have that mental inclination and capacity to want and fight to be liberated and that resolve cannot be taken away from us.”
Creativity evokes powerful resonances both for the artist and the viewer. Every piece of art tells a story which is very diverse. My goal as an artist is to use my artistic expressions to stimulate and share thoughts, emotions and feelings which are directly associated to issues which are important to me.

I have always tried to explore varied materials in my work. Most times I try to find a cohesive way to mesh different art making processes. This approach to art making has allowed my creative process to continuously evolve as I find new ways combine materials and processes. In this body of work I have merged wire sculpting, papier mache and collage to produce a stimulating visual representation while commenting on the unrealistic standard of beauty. Our form is only superficial, what's inside of us, who we are won't be revealed just by our curves. Women are beautiful in many different ways.

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Stereo Type
Nicole Ramdass-Kangalee

artist statement: Typography is a fundamental part of our daily lives; it is inextricably linked to the concepts of language and communication and so words encompasses the power to illuminate as well as deceive. Just as language is not static, letters and type develop and change overtime as the dominant power inherits, alters and adapts its will on existing forms. The name of the installation is Stereo Type as it's both a play on words as well as a blatant protest on the misuse of type.

The idea of the work is to merge the lines of fine art and surface design through sculpture. In order to peel away our predetermined ideas about organic form, the installation is presented in its most simplistic state, where its form brings to life deep patterns and hypnotic rhythm making its objective subject to interpretation. To quote Matthew Carter a renowned typographer “As the saying goes type is a beautiful group of letters not a group of beautiful letters.”

Biography: Nicole Ramdass-Kangalee born in 1980, graduated from College of Science and Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago where she earned an Associate Degree in Visual Communication in 2002. Nicole has worked professionally as a graphic designer for the past fourteen years and is currently pursuing her Bachelor’s Degree in Visual Arts through the University of the West Indies, with her focus on Fine Art.
“Art is Basic”
Tovya Headley
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Tovya Headley was born on the 24th July 1990, and grew up in Woodbrook, Port of Spain. She states, “The artistic eye runs in the family- my grandfather was a blacksmith and my father is a steel fabricator; he designs and makes furniture out of wrought iron. I was always encouraged by my parents, especially my father, to explore my creativity. Art is basic is a modern abstract sculpture made from a natural material called cocoyea. I wanted to experiment with cocoyea as a material, with the hope of creating a new technology. My piece, “Art is basic” is an expression of my identity and culture. I believe the harmonious lines, curves and intersections in the sculpture reflects the continuity and complexity of our memories and how much they grow to be a part of us as time goes on.”

Tovya plans to continue her studies by pursuing a masters in the near future. She has hopes of also gaining experience in animation and is currently working with a few friends and family to bring out a kiddies carnival band next year.