



"Untitled" Mixed media on canvas Kristina M Rowe (HR version see Isst page)

## CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION IN LONDON FITZROVIA

### BLACK CIRCLE GALLERY: **SPIRIT OF JAMAICA**

featuring the work of its Jamaican artists  
**Monique Lofters, Kristina M. Rowe, Laura Hamilton,  
 Phillip Thomas and Laura Facey Cooper**

**11 - 16 October 2011 Admission Free**

Exhibition Venue:

14 Percy Street, Fitzrovia, London W1T 1DR Tel +44 (0)203 155 1117

Exhibition Opening: 11 October 2011 6 - 9 pm

Official Opening: 11 - 17 October 2011  
 Mon- Fri 10 am – 6 pm  
 Sat 11 am – 5 pm  
 free entrance



### Directions to get to the site

14 Percy Street, Fitzrovia  
 London W1T 1DR  
 Tel +44 (0)203 155 1117

Next to Charlotte Street  
 Parking in the street  
 subway Station  
 Goodge Street (3 min)



### Press Release

The **Spirit of Jamaica exhibition** has been curated to coincide with the launch of Black Circle Gallery, a dynamic new gallery funded by Theresa Roberts to promote artists from countries which are under-represented in Europe. Theresa Roberts is a Jamaican by birth and this first exhibition showcasing young Jamaican talent is a natural starting point reflecting her heritage.

Superficial notions of Jamaican culture which are portrayed in the mainstream media in Europe fail to take into account the sophisticated visual arts community which exists in the country.

This diverse and dynamic arts scene is in no small part due to the legacy of "**the Mother of Jamaican Art**" **Edna Manley** (a contemporary of Barbara Hepworth, wife of Chief Minister Norman Manley and mother of Prime Minister Michael Manley) who established disciplines and infrastructures in the country which would be immediately recognisable to the Anglo-Saxon eye but which have evolved over the 50 years since independence to become uniquely Jamaican in character.

**The artists in the show** represent the best of the new wave of artists following in the footsteps of past masters such as Albert Huie, Barrington Watson and John Dunkley all of whom have established reputations beyond the West Indies. Although crudely categorised as a new wave of artists the individuals do, of course, represent talent at different stages of maturity and at different points in their careers.

Monique Lofters and Kristina Rowe were the undoubted stars of the Edna Manley Art College final year show in 2009. These are two young women who have a huge amount to say about the role of women in Jamaica today.

The Island has long been a matriarchal society but it is telling that women are well represented in this show despite there being no recognised Jamaican woman "Old Master" other than Edna Manley.



Laura Facey and Laura Hamilton are, in contrast, established and popular artists in Jamaica who have also exhibited overseas and are starting to gain international reputations. Laura Facey's sculpture "Their Spirit gone before Them" has been exhibited in museums outside Jamaica and has created international interest befitting its subject matter and the quality of its execution. Phillip Thomas is the rising star of Jamaican Art.

An articulate and thoughtful individual he is already represented by a dealer in New York and we feel privileged to have been able to represent him in the UK. Phillip deals with the place of black culture in Europe through his depictions of recognisably European figures from history with "blackness" imposed upon them. This technique forces us (sometimes uncomfortably) to question the way in which "European" culture and history has been presented to us. In addition the uneasy relationship between beauty and brutality are another recurring theme.



Monique Lofters

### Jamaican Artists - Details

#### **Monique Lofters**

Born in Jamaica in 1987

Attended Edna Manley School of Visual Arts

#### **Kristina M. Rowe**

Born in Jamaica in 1987

Attended Edna Manley School of Visual Arts



Phillip Thomas

#### **Laura Hamilton**

Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1964

Attended Central School of Art,  
 London UK & Kingston Polytechnic, London UK

#### **Phillip Thomas**

Born in 1980

Attended the Edna Manley School of Visual Arts  
 and has won several awards



Laura Facey Cooper

#### **Laura Facey Cooper**

Born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1954

Attended Jamaica School of Art Kingston,  
 Jamaica and also

West Surrey College of Art and Design, England.  
 She has received several awards including a  
 commission of sculpture for Emancipation Park,  
 Kingston.



### Listings Information

14 Percy Street, Fitzrovia, London W1T 1DR  
11th October 2011 – 17th October 2011

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Tel +44 (0)203 155 1117

**Email** [www.blackcirclegallery.com](http://www.blackcirclegallery.com)

For further information  
on Jamaican Art: [www.art-jamaica.org](http://www.art-jamaica.org)

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