

THE ARTS JOURNAL

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The Arts Journal is an independent, refereed Journal that provides fresh critical perspectives on the contemporary literatures, arts and culture of Guyana, the Caribbean and their Diasporas.

The first thing to say is that prior to the launching of **The Arts Journal** in 2004, there was virtually no critical material published in Guyana that students of the humanities could easily access. Students of the visual arts would trundle around the country trying to contact artists and interviewing them on their own to fulfill their SBA assignments. Literary criticism was mostly to be found in overseas journals, often written in technical language and often economically prohibitive to students. In addition, there was need for more space for regional scholars and creative writers to publish their work on Caribbean themes and issues.

During the last eight years **The Arts Journal** has filled all of these gaps by providing affordable and very readable analytical material on Caribbean works of literature and the visual arts, and on aspects of its social history and culture.

The aims of **The Arts Journal** are, first, to foster a culture of critical thinking at home and in the wider Caribbean society; secondly, to look afresh at our intellectual heritage from a culturally relevant perspective; and, thirdly, to help individuals towards a sense of identity and belonging through the arts and cultural artifacts. **The Arts Journal** also seeks to bridge the gap between home and the Diaspora so that their scholarly and creative works are not lost to us.

While **The Arts Journal** recognizes a tradition of critical debate across the disciplines on Caribbean themes it aims to extend the debate to embrace the plurality of Caribbean peoples, particularly those whose works have been neglected and under-represented. The Journal sets out to discover and illuminate such works and does so through critical essays, interviews, book reviews, travel writing, the short story, poetry and the visual and traditional arts. In addition, the consequences of globalization and its rendering of national borders fluid and porous will demand more critical space for debates.

Now in its sixth Volume, this Journal is widely subscribed to by the libraries of secondary and tertiary learning institutions, community colleges, public and private libraries, art galleries and museums, and other such institutions in Guyana, throughout the Caribbean region, North America and the United Kingdom.

THE ARTS FORUM Inc. (publisher of **The Arts Journal**) takes the view that the arts are a liberating, humanizing force and a reservoir for the beliefs and

values of a society. Even students who are offering subjects in other streams (business, law, the social and natural sciences, technology) have found the Journal instructive to their sense of identity and belonging, to notions of self and society.

No democracy can survive unless its people can think critically and hold independent worldview, one that is not clouded by the ambivalences created by politics, race, class, religion and other man-made barriers.

Please visit the Journal's website: www.theartsjournal.org.gy to see reviews and responses to this publication, Editorial and Contents of each issue and composition of the Editorial and Advisory Boards. For Subscriptions and Submission of Articles, contact the editor, Ameena Gafoor, at: theartsjournal@live.co.uk or Bernadette Persaud at bernadettepersaud5@hotmail.com
