

'Inner Light'

Story by Natalie Coleman

The National Gallery's new exhibition 'Inner Light' of portraiture photography was well received by the public at the opening night on Monday.

The evening began with an informal lecture by Joyce Tenneson, the photographer, for the 'Friends

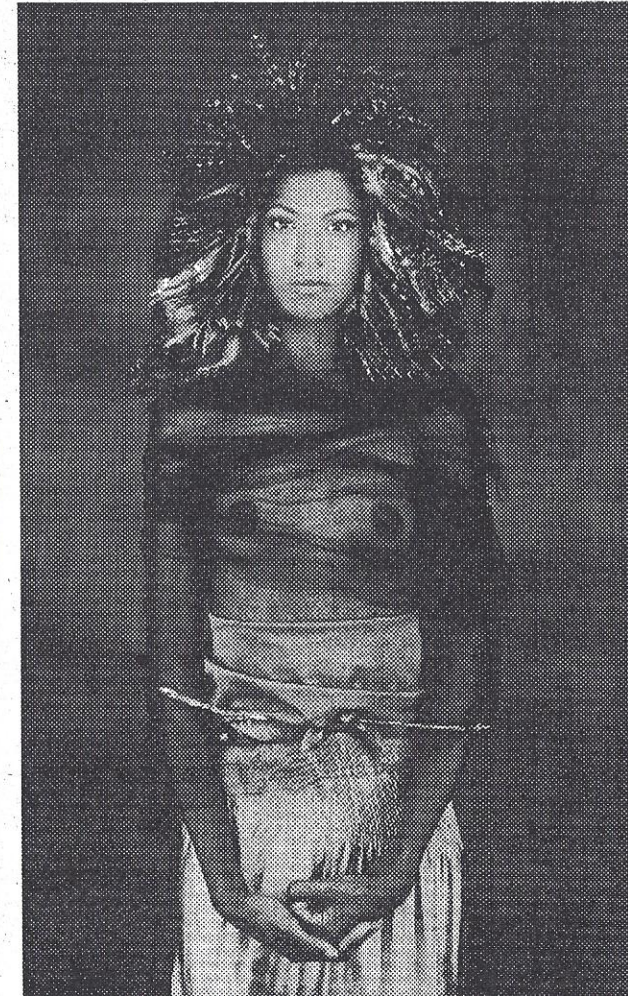
of the Gallery'. A group of fifteen listened attentively as Ms. Tenneson described each photograph and the techniques used to create the ethereal glow that emanates through her subjects.

"For me photography is a kind of visual diary, it allows me to probe emotions and inner realities that by their very nature are

invisible but are powerfully present in all of us nonetheless." She continued, "I see women leading a movement now into an area of spiritual awareness, of proclaiming the beauty of inner light and compassion."

When asked how she chose her subjects Ms. Tenneson replied, "I meet them everywhere, in the subway, the elevator. I was drawn to

Ms Tenneson photographed Sheryl in New York, before and after she was pregnant. She believes Sheryl "regally sums up of all that it means to carry new life".



attracted Cayman crowds Monday night

photograph these people because I saw something in them, an inner power or radiance that resonated with my unconscious."

"They all make me feel as if they are on a journey or search. By trying to reveal their essence, I want to celebrate the beauty and complexity of what it means to be a spiritual warrior - to offer oneself to the world authentically, to flex the courage muscles, to share what it means to be human."

The exhibition attracted

enthusiastic crowds throughout the evening to the delight of the Director of the National Gallery, Leslie Bigelman, "I thought it was a great opening. We had a lot of people that I've never seen in here before which is always good at a new exhibit. The fact that we keep changing the mediums shown here helps to bring in different crowds."

The presence of a lot of young people at the

exhibition was especially noticed.

The artist herself was astounded by the turnout and the way in which people responded to her work.

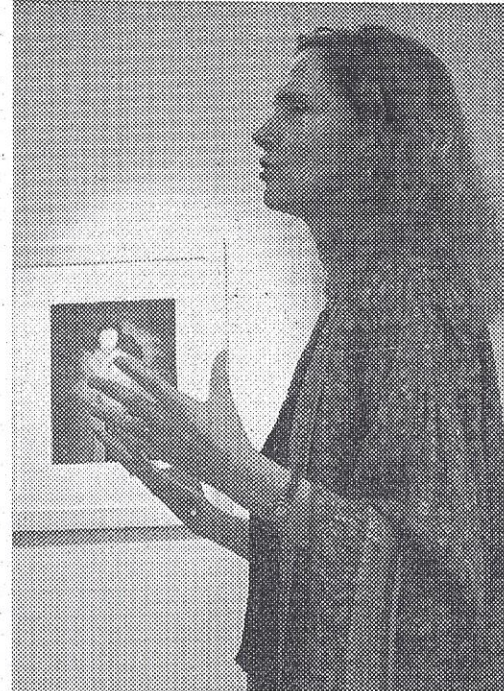
"A lot of people were standing in front of the photographs and

discussing them. With such a large crowd of people, and on an opening night, it's often hard to get that kind of interaction," said Ms. Bigelman.

This is the gallery's first international exhibition since their Salvador Dali exhibit in June as the hurricane season prevents them from bringing international art to the Island. It is the second time that the Ms. Tenneson's collection has been shown to the public.

The first exhibition, held recently in New York, where Ms. Tenneson lives and teaches, coincided with the launch of Ms. Tenneson's new book "Light Warriors", a collection of photographs that make up the exhibition.

The staff at the gallery hopes that the level of attendance will continue and encourage people to come and see the exhibition which runs until 3 February 2001. "I think that by the time this one's over we'll beat the Dali numbers," said Ms. Bigelman.



Ms Tenneson gives an informal lecture to the 'Friends of the Gallery'.

Left: Self-portrait of the artist with a shaman's cape that is over 100 years old. "Its intrinsically powerful." Said Ms Tenneson.

Right: Ms Tenneson is interested in the connection between twins. Here, the ghostly central figure, created by accident, shows a single spirit that connects the two sisters.

