

# Rousings stirs the masses

2004

By Searlina Bodden

The word around the National Gallery is awakening – the artists, the patrons, the visitors are throwing it around like the latest catch phrase.

The buzz is for *Rousings*, the gallery's latest offering – an ex-

hibition of progressive Jamaican art from a selection of artists ranging from veterans to emerging contemporaries.

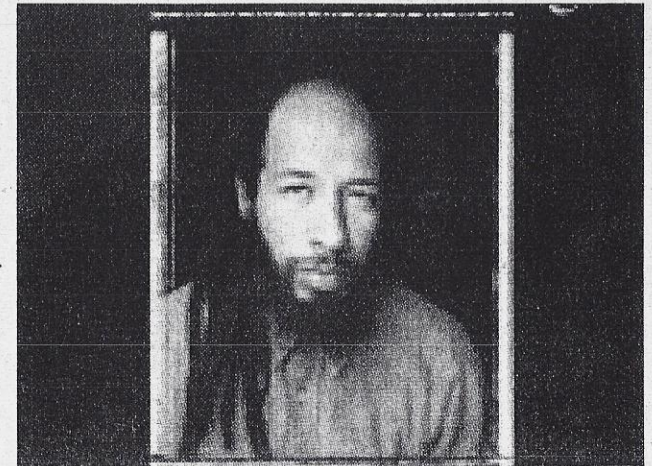
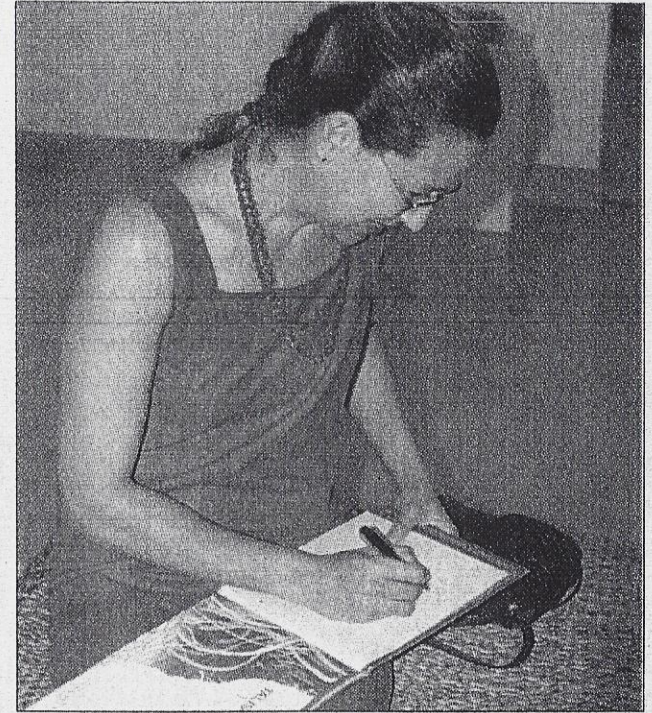
The works on display run the full gamut of media; from video, sculpture, and other installations to the more traditional such as photography and painting.

All tell a story and each touches on a series of sensitive and slightly controversial topics, many of which apply directly to Cayman.

*Rousings* is on display until 20 May. The National Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm, Saturday from 11am-4pm.

Look in a future edition of the *Weekender* for a detailed review of *Rousings*.

**AT RIGHT:** Laura Facey signs a copy of her book for an art enthusiast. **BELOW:** Artist Winsom prepares her installation piece with a blessing ceremony.



## ARTIST'S PROFILE

# Spiritual exploration through art

By Searlina Bodden

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Albert Chong has put his own connection with the spirit world on a pedestal for all the world to see.

Chong is exhibiting pieces from The Throne Series at Rousings, a multi-medium piece of photographs and installation art that explore

deities and their connections to the spiritual realm.

An associate professor of art and photography at the University of Colorado – Boulder, Chong took exit from a career solely in photography and began working with installation art in the late eighties. It was dur-

Throne Series first materialised.

The photographic works feature abstract images of chairs and sometimes, as is the case with the piece exhibiting at *Rousings*, the chairs are exhibited with the photos. A glass of water and a lifeless songbird complete the poignant

Chong has produced three main bodies of photographic work – The I-Trait Series, The Still Lives and the Thrones, which he describes as a “portal for connection with the spirit world”.

“My use of the throne relates to the belief that spiritual entities can be seated, deified,

***Exploration of the throned deity – Albert Chong exhibits a work from his Throne Series at Rousings, on display now at the National Gallery.***

and honoured with offerings or sacrifices – treated not unlike earthly royalty,” he says.

Chong has exhibited widely across the Caribbean, North America and Europe in venues such as the Ansel Adams Centre for photography in San Francisco, The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Centre for Fine Arts in Miami and the Havana Bi-

ennial in Cuba. He is the recipient of several art fellowships including the 1998 Guggenheim fellowship in photography, a 1998 Pollock/Krasner grant from the Pollock Krasner Foundation, a regional National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Photography, and a 1992 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in photography.