

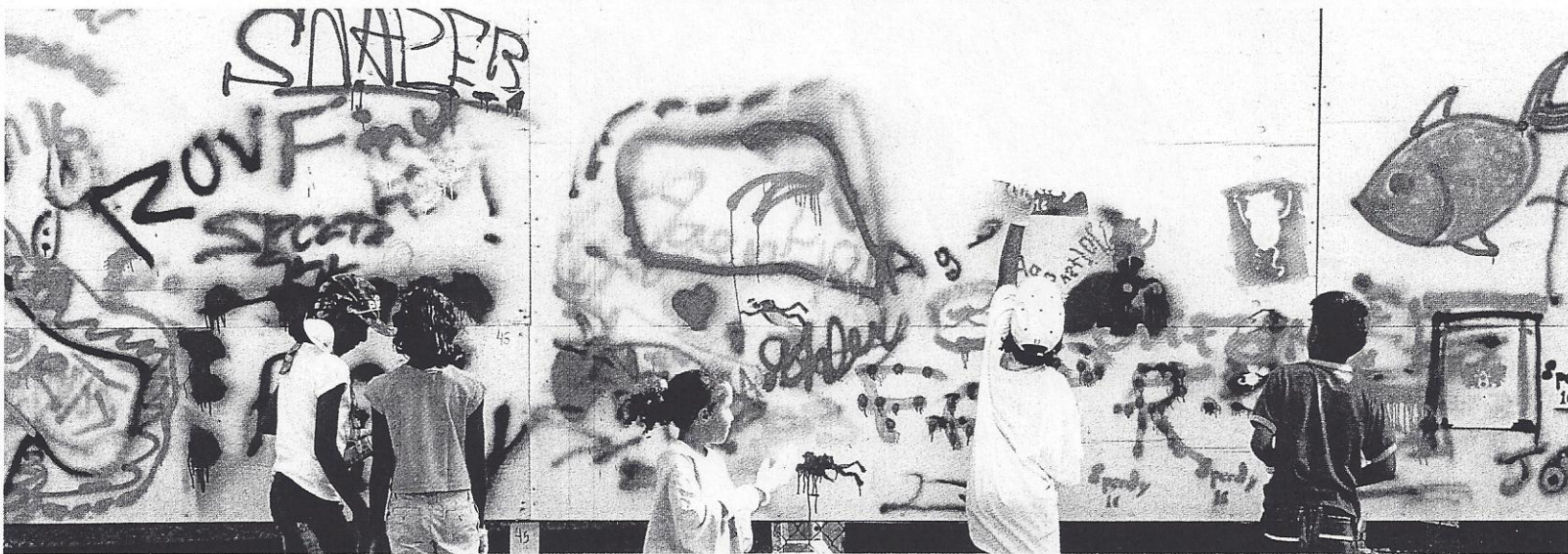
Featured artist:

Jean Van Iddekinge

By Christopher Tobutt



■ Jean Van Iddekinge with something he has been working on recently



■ Some of the youngsters participating in the National Gallery's Street Art Workshop.

Jean Van Iddekinge is a street artist who grew up in Johannesburg (now called Gauteng) South Africa. Presently, he lives in Cayman and has a regular job, working as a server at the Westin Casuarina to pay the bills, he said.

"I first became interested in art at High School where I would do projects completely differently to what we were supposed to do. I thought my work looked really cool

but the teachers obviously didn't; and I was an average student and only really received encouragement from my mom," he said.

"I first became interested in Graffiti and street art when I was living in a commune in Kalk Bay with a bunch of street artists. I got hold of some paints and put a sheet up in the yard and started painting. My first wall came soon after. I have painted hundreds of walls since," Mr. Van

Iddekinge said.

Mr. Van Iddekinge has been facilitating a Street Art workshop at the National Gallery, and also outside on the Gallery's mural painting site surrounding the new Government building.

"I think street art is appealing to young people as it has no rules and you don't have to be the best to share your art with others. When I work with kids I feel they are happy to take something they have done

and make it public. I'm sharing their thoughts with the world," he said.

"Future plans with the National Gallery are workshops with the outreach program with the Grand Cayman and also groups on the St. George's. I'm already seeing street art being produced in the workshop and I'm really excited to see what's to come,