

Reaching out from Within VI

A NEW exhibition of artwork from participants in the National Gallery's Outreach programme opened at the National Gallery, Harbour Place, on Thursday 6 September.

The artwork, which consists of paintings, mosaics, and photographs, was as varied as the people who created it.

The unique programme brings art directly into the community, and has steadily extended in scope—not only in terms of the kinds of people it has reached, but also in terms of the kinds of programmes that are on offer.

Kiran Denis, Outreach and Community Officer, told *Cayman Net News*: "We have about eight different programmes: Art Alliance; affiliated with the Bonaventure Boys Home; Art Unlimited at the Frances Bodden Girls Home; Art Haven at Caribbean Haven; Inside Art affiliated with Fairbanks Prison; Art Unbound affiliated with Northward Prison, and Eagle House Combined.

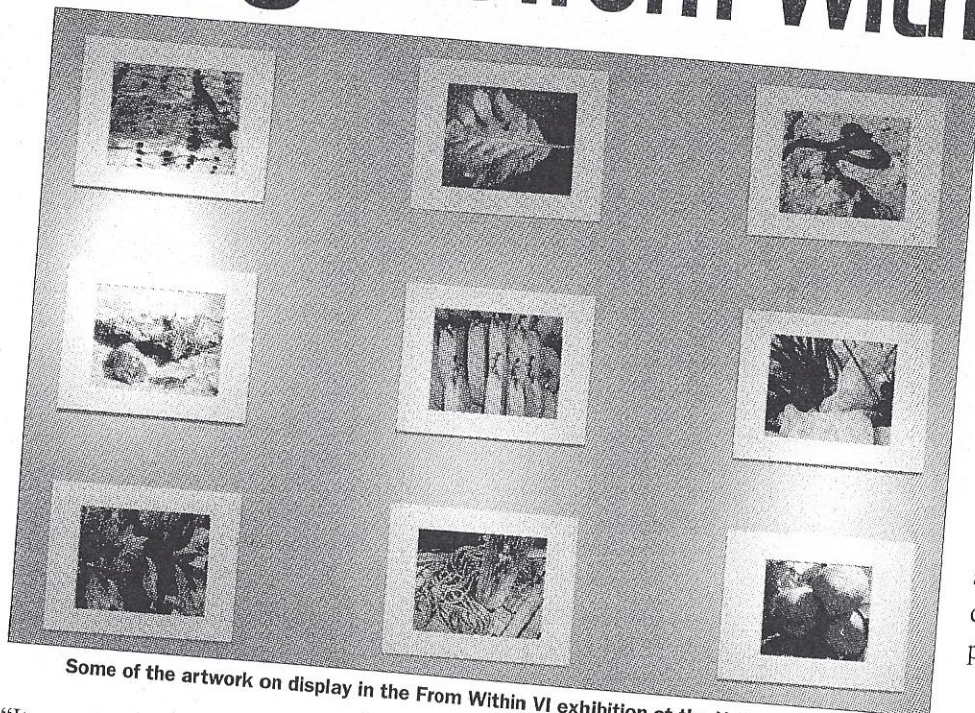
"We have Art Sisters, which is a public women's group which meets on Saturdays; Art Magnet, which is a teenage after school programme which is also public. We also have a new programme that has started up; it's a mural programme; and we also have district programmes called Art Zone which go into the community once a month."

Commenting on how the art outreach programmes help people, she added:

"It completely depends on whom we are helping; the key thing is we are helping a diverse body of people on Grand Cayman. We are working with everyone from seniors to young kids; we are also working with incarcerated people, just very normal people.

"Overall, what the art programmes achieve is that we are teaching skills, and when anybody can learn a skill, and better themselves because of that skill, then we feel we are giving them something that's transferable. We are trying to teach something that doesn't only produce artists; but produces better people.

"Some people feel it's an escape, or



Some of the artwork on display in the From Within VI exhibition at the National Gallery.

One of the participants in the Art Sisters programme, Darene Scott, said: "I love it. It's a time when a group of us can get together and talk and laugh and enjoy the artwork that we're doing," she said.

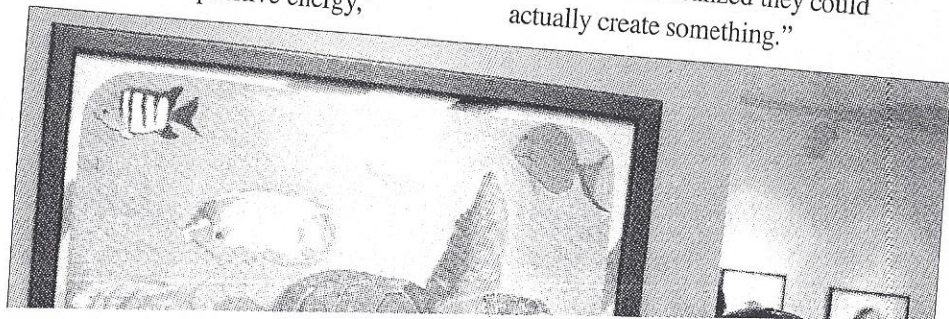
Describing one of her paintings, 'The View,' she said: "It looks relaxing; it takes you away from everyday life. I did this from a reproduction, but I also do portraits too."

The leader for Art Unlimited, Anne Goulden, has been facilitating an art group for girls from the Frances Bodden Home, as they made some mosaics, also on display at the exhibition. Describing the process, and what it achieved, she said:

"These mosaics took a great deal of concentration, a lot of time. They had conceptual qualities that they had to fulfill, as well as the actual manipulation of the tile itself; so it was both manual and conceptual at the same time...it was very difficult.

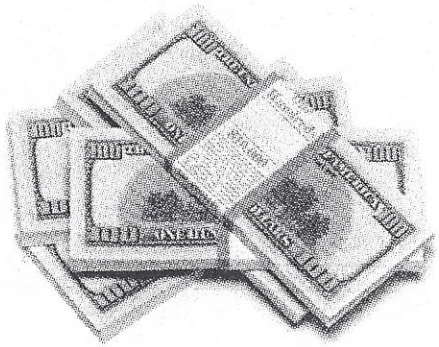
"When they were actually finished they were so excited about it because they had never realized they could actually create something."

they can talk to other people, for others it really is just to better their knowledge of art, and get better at it. But overall I think we're a community programme; the idea behind outreach is to help, is to assist, and is to give people and to give them a medium where they can release themselves in a positive energy."



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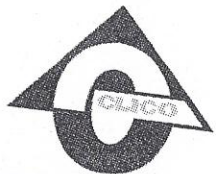
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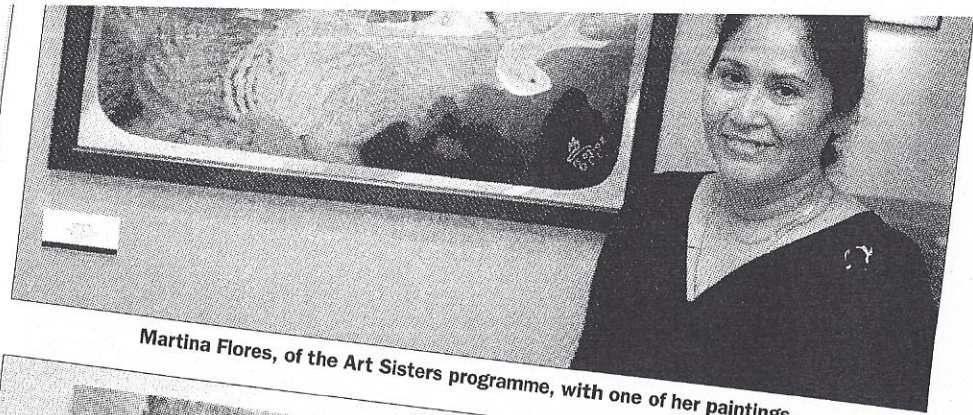
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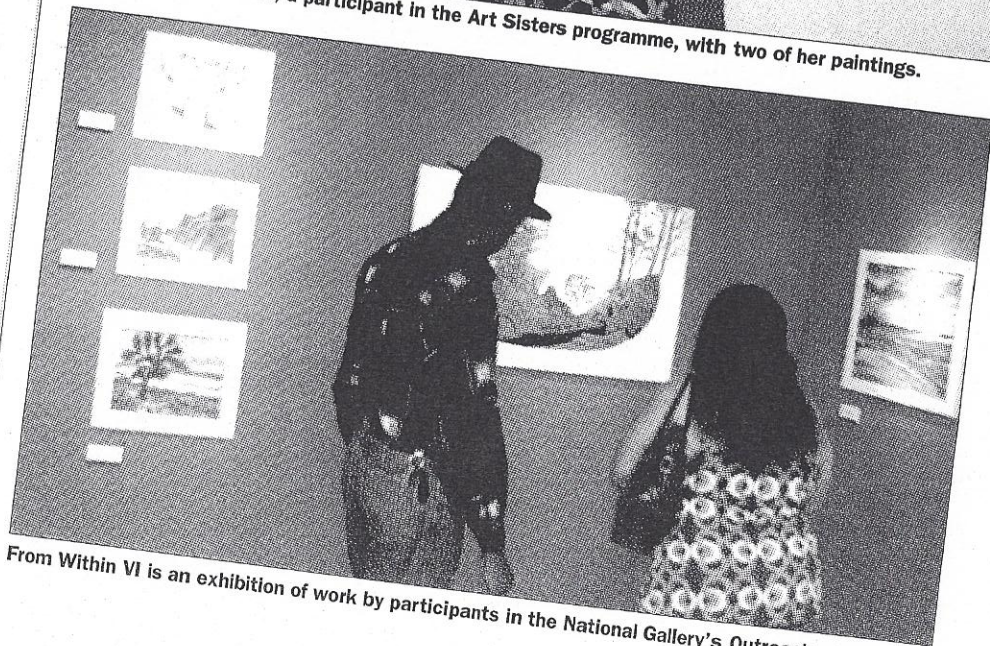
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Martina Flores, of the Art Sisters programme, with one of her paintings.



Darene Scott, a participant in the Art Sisters programme, with two of her paintings.



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