



20th to 25th of June
10am - 5pm

EMBODIED ISLANDS

An Exhibition of
Caribbean Photography

Helen Martin Studio
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Embodied Islands is a photography exhibition bringing together the past and the present in the Caribbean Region, one of the most creative regions for visual art and photography.

The exhibition will consist of two different visual elements. At the center of the room, the display of 200 stereoviews (the ancestor of photographs) taken at the very end of the 19th century across the Caribbean Region just after the abolition are a rare opportunity to see the conditions of life and work of the Caribbean people in a colonial environment.

Those pictures are as much historical witnesses of the plantation system as visual triggers to reflect on how photography was used as a tool to justify that the exploitation of the workers's body as a commodity. (Those pictures are suitable for children to see). They are a rare opportunity to think about the history of photography, given that a stereoscope will be displayed in the room to give a real sense of the type of pictures people could enjoy to see at the time.

All across the room, Embodied Islands will also display the works of four contemporary Caribbean artists, whose photographs challenge the ways in which the human body is represented in the Caribbean.

Nadia Huggins from Saint Vincent, winner of the last Caribbean Festival of the Image, takes picture of teenagers while they dive from the cliff into the water as part of a coming of age ritual. The pictures are taken under water and represent the body in quite a supernatural feature, as if movement was fixed under water. Robert Charlotte's (from Martinique) series of portraits of the Garifuna people of Saint Vincent tell the story of the artist's encounter with his Caribbean brothers and the Garifunas strong will to remain free.

Jean-Baptiste Barret, another renowned photographer from Martinique, portraits men and women with masks, posing in amazing tropical landscapes while reenacting a mythology of the island as a new Caribbean Odyssey, that is open to the spectator's interpretation.

Jean-François Manicom, from Guadeloupe, was awarded in 2016 the prize for the best photographer at the Vera international Festival of Contemporary Art in Moscow for his series "Darbonne", which portraits the nightlife on the Route de Darbonne, in Haiti. The silhouettes of adults and children on the Route de Darbonne are like ghostlike dancers in chiaroscuro behind the cars headlights.