

NAGB
Alissa Belamias

Good evening

It is a pleasure to be here. Welcome.

Thank you Minister Bannister- Professor Erica James. I would also like to thank the NAGB for this. And all the other wonderful people who worked along side each other to make this happen. I wholeheartedly appreciate your support.

Thank you to the Collectors, for their help: Ms. Dawn Davies, Mrs. Wiberg, Lady Barnett, Mrs. Gwen Knowles, Mr. Ian Fair, Scotiabank, Mr. and Mrs D'Aguilar, The Cox family, Popop Studios, Jay Koment, Mr. Derek Rolle, Dr. Vaughan Conliffe, Karen Arthur, Lawrence Bascom and others.

And all of this on my 75th birthday! What a celebration. I am thrilled. Totally lost for words.

This show should excite you to the limits. It is an inside look into a man whose life has always been lived to the fullest and on the edge. It is surreal, contemplative and has a lot of content, symbolism, spiritualism and psychological impact. It is abstract.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Kendal Hanna. I am an abstract expressionist artist. I have chosen this path as the medium to express myself in the search for truth and self-discovery. Art serves a purpose. It includes education, culture, the civilizing of society and is of vital importance to us, mankind.

Besides being a painter of the visual arts, I am on my way to becoming a sculptor as well. During the course of my painting and drawing I discovered that there were symbols ⁱⁿ my work, and these forms were sculptural. Without hesitation, I utilized it. It was an inborn, innate thing. But looking back there were artists I befriended

in The Bahamas, who I considered mentors: Don Seiler, Professor Randolph Johnstone, David Rawnsley- They were all sculptors.

I have a desire for sculpture that is as strong as my love of painting. I intend to marry both. All my life I have loved sculpture. It is an extremely strong solid thing. Hard. Alive. Solid. Firm. But it could also be "moving".

This exhibit is an individual artist's journey through life and his expressed interest. Art is my life. I have no other life to live. I am committed to this wholeheartedly.

Generations of upcoming young Bahamian artists will carry the torch throughout the 21st Century beginning a new millennium on the art scene. Their creative souls will work wonders as modern and contemporary artists and I wish them well.

Thanks very much for coming and enjoy the show.

Kurtal Jones 15/7/11 Nassau Bahamas