

Art Forms

(a) Jamaica and Trinidad were the two British Caribbean territories that were most engaged in **visual art**. Edna Manley, wife of Jamaica's most eminent politician was a professional artist. Most of the Caribbean art that was on show copied European themes. This is understandable since the majority of their patrons were whites- creoles. Those who were interested in local art were usually self -taught and therefore not recognized by society. By the 1930's the picture began to change. Marcus Garvey philosophies and teachings gave great impetus to local artists. Edna Manley was instrumental in this. She did sculptor and paintings of Rastafarians, market sellers (Negroes and lower class!)



Eve by Edna Manley

The Institute of Jamaica encourages local art exhibition in the 1930's. by 1940, there was an exhibition of all Jamaican paintings. By 1950, the Jamaica School of Art was established and artists such as Mallica "Kapo" Reynolds a Rastafarian spearheaded a group of artists who emphasized African heritage as their theme.

Trinidad's native art movement also began in the 1930's. In 1943, the Trinidad Art Society was created and the following year (1944) they hosted their first Annual Art Exhibition. While Jamaica forged ahead with paintings and sculpturing of local themes Trinidad seemed to focus on abstract themes.? In 1962, Trinidad's National Museum and Art Gallery was founded.

Performing Arts

Beryl McBurnie and the Trinidadian dancers. The NDTC movement in Jamaica.

1. Ward Theatre **National Pantomime**: By the 1950's people from all walks of life in Jamaica were attending the Pantomimes. The themes moved from early British favorites such as **Jack and the Beanstalk (1941)**, **Sleeping Beauty** and **Pandora's Box to Anansi, Carib Gold (1960)** and **Banana Boy (1961)**. Phenomenal roles were played by (Mas Ran) Randolph Williams and (Ms. Lou) Louise Bennett Coverly.

2. Natives were writing their own plays. The play: Bluebeard and Brer Anancy (1949) was written by Louise Bennett and Noel Vaz.

(b) Architecture??

Caribbean architecture was imported by the different colonial masters that ruled the region: Spanish, British, French and Dutch. Spanish architecture is best seen in the cathedrals and forts that are left behind. They used stained windows, solid stones and arches. The stone pillars indicate that they copied from the Greek and Roman styles. ?



Spanish architecture in Puerto Rico

British architecture is best seen in the remnants of the Great Houses and forts that are in the territories. Jamaica is famous for Devon House and Rose Hall while St. Kitts is famous for Brimstone House. The houses were usually three stories high. Built of stone with huge rooms and curving connecting staircases. They usually have a verandah or porch. They are built to withstand hurricanes and the tropical weather.



Devon House Kingston Jamaica

In the islands that were at some point controlled by the French: Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica: we see evidence of French influence especially in the roofs which are usually made from fish scale tiles. Architecture in the Caribbean, though imported from Europe takes into consideration the climatic conditions of the region. Hence the houses are built with a lot of windows to let out the heat and hopefully attract the breezes. The wooded windows are latticed or criss crossed and open outwards. ??

They are also built to withstand hurricanes and earthquakes as much as possible. Later on when iron and steel building material became available these were also used. In addition local material is often used. Belize and Jamaica are famous for their hardwood which was used for both flooring and supporting posts.