

DVCAI

CARIBBEAN GLOBAL CURRENTS II

PANAMA

TALKING
ACROSS
DIFFERENCE

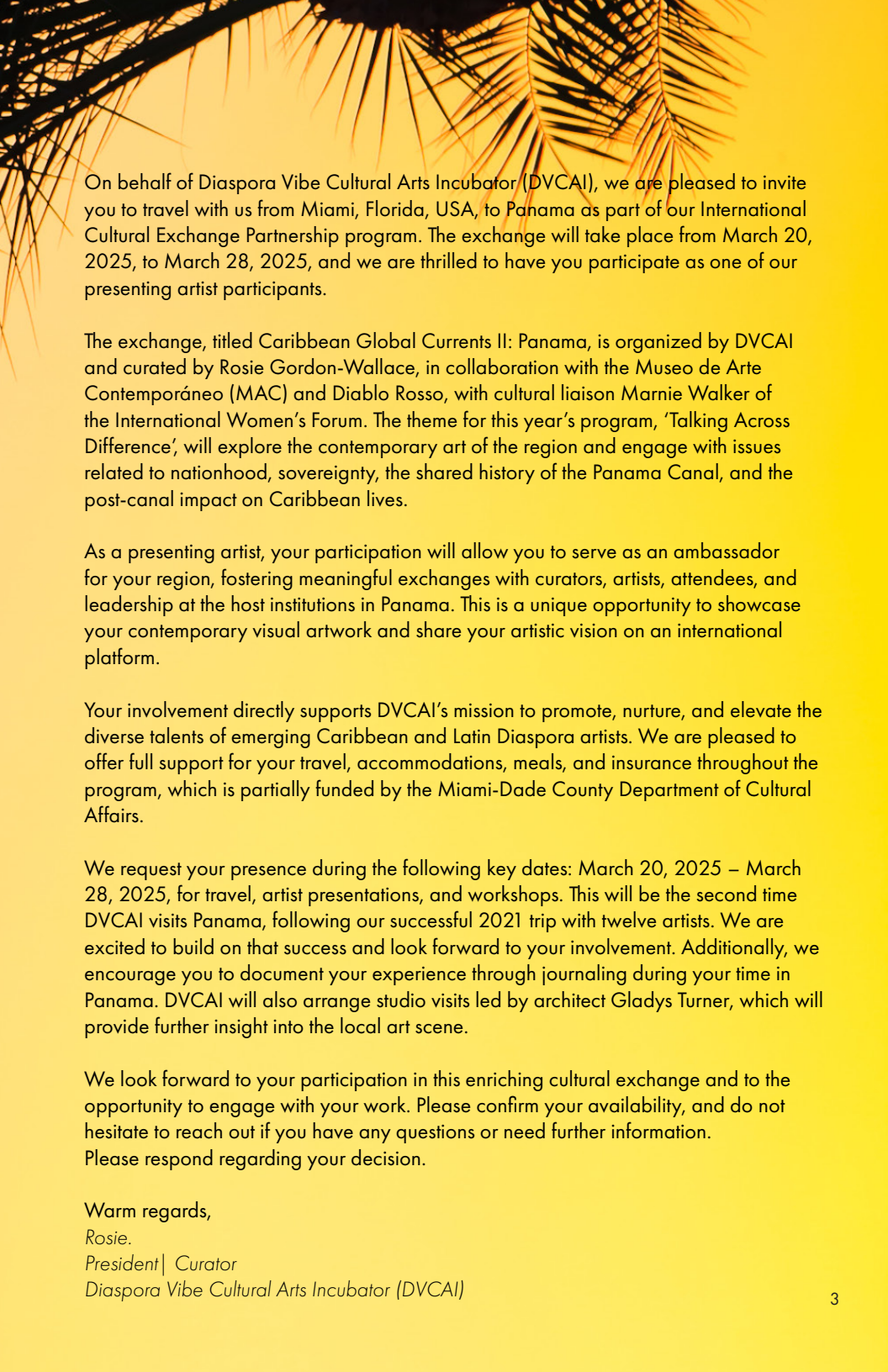


International Cultural Exchange
March 20th - March 28th, 2025



Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI) is a Miami-based 501 (c)(3) organization. The mission of DVCAI is to promote, nurture and cultivate the vision and diverse talent of emerging artists from the Caribbean and Latin diaspora through our exhibition, artist-in-residence, international exchange and outreach programs that celebrate Miami-Dade's rich cultural and social fabric.

www.dvcai.org



On behalf of Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI), we are pleased to invite you to travel with us from Miami, Florida, USA, to Panama as part of our International Cultural Exchange Partnership program. The exchange will take place from March 20, 2025, to March 28, 2025, and we are thrilled to have you participate as one of our presenting artist participants.

The exchange, titled Caribbean Global Currents II: Panama, is organized by DVCAI and curated by Rosie Gordon-Wallace, in collaboration with the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MAC) and Diablo Rosso, with cultural liaison Marnie Walker of the International Women's Forum. The theme for this year's program, 'Talking Across Difference', will explore the contemporary art of the region and engage with issues related to nationhood, sovereignty, the shared history of the Panama Canal, and the post-canal impact on Caribbean lives.

As a presenting artist, your participation will allow you to serve as an ambassador for your region, fostering meaningful exchanges with curators, artists, attendees, and leadership at the host institutions in Panama. This is a unique opportunity to showcase your contemporary visual artwork and share your artistic vision on an international platform.

Your involvement directly supports DVCAI's mission to promote, nurture, and elevate the diverse talents of emerging Caribbean and Latin Diaspora artists. We are pleased to offer full support for your travel, accommodations, meals, and insurance throughout the program, which is partially funded by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.

We request your presence during the following key dates: March 20, 2025 – March 28, 2025, for travel, artist presentations, and workshops. This will be the second time DVCAI visits Panama, following our successful 2021 trip with twelve artists. We are excited to build on that success and look forward to your involvement. Additionally, we encourage you to document your experience through journaling during your time in Panama. DVCAI will also arrange studio visits led by architect Gladys Turner, which will provide further insight into the local art scene.

We look forward to your participation in this enriching cultural exchange and to the opportunity to engage with your work. Please confirm your availability, and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need further information. Please respond regarding your decision.

Warm regards,

Rosie.

President | Curator

Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI)



Participants

Rosie Gordon-Wallace

Miami, Jamaica

Alix Pierre

Atlanta, Guadeloupe

Ife Marie Williams

Atlanta

Thom R. Wheeler

Miami, Ecuador

Amanda Bradley

Miami, Belize

Izia Lee Lindsay

South Dakota, Trinidad & Tobago

Asser St Val

Miami, Haiti

Kurt Nahar

Suriname

Lauryn Yajhaira Lawrence

Miami, Jamaica, Dominican Republic

Michael Elliott

Jamaica

Roy Anthony Wallace

Miami, Jamaica



Rosie Gordon-Wallace is a recognized curator, arts advocate, community leader and pioneer in advancing contemporary Caribbean diaspora art. She founded the Diaspora Vibe Culture Arts Incubator (DVCAI) to serve as a local and global laboratory dedicated to promoting, nurturing and cultivating the vision and diverse talents of emerging artists from the Caribbean Diaspora, artists of color and immigrant artists. Twenty-six years later, DVCAI is recognized as a global resource and one of the region's leading platforms dedicated to providing diaspora artists with a venue to explore and experiment with new forms and themes that challenge traditional definitions of Caribbean and Latin American art.



Alix Pierre, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer in the ADW program at Spelman College. His research focuses on the Diasporan retention and transformation of culture that includes a feminist perspective. He favors a transnational approach to Diasporic cultural production beyond the boundaries of nations and states. He explores the representation and visualization of black bodies, voices, thoughts, and aesthetics across media. Since 2015, he has been collaborating with the DVCAI as a scholar-in-residence. He is the author of *L'image de la femme résistante chez quatre romancières noires : vision diasporique de la femme en résistance chez Maryse Condé, Simone Schwarz-Bart, Toni Morrison et Alice Walker* (PAF:2014) among other accolades.



Ife Williams - Born in Atlanta, art has played a central role in her life since early childhood. Ife Williams began her formal training in sculpture at Interlochen Arts Academy in Northern Michigan, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Sculpture/ Metalsmithing from the University of Michigan, pursued a Master's degree in Museum Studies at Syracuse University, and received a certificate of nonprofit organizational management from the Georgia Center for Nonprofits. Over the last three decades, Ife has worked actively as a maker in stone and ceramics while also serving in several administrative roles. She currently holds the position of Deputy Director at The Hambidge Center for Creative Arts & Sciences in Rabun Gap, Georgia.



Michael Elliott's artistic journey has taken him into a socio-political realm over the years, mainly focusing on painting as his medium but also photography at times. It is fair to say that photography has indeed influenced his style of painting, i.e., photorealism. Attending the Edna Manley College of The Visual and Performing Arts in Jamaica in 1998, Michael honed his skill as a painter, developing different techniques in varying mediums while developing an awareness of social issues in Jamaica and throughout the world. Michael's work can be said to feature a wide use of symbolism to represent his themes, especially in the intimately tuned still life pieces.



Amanda Bradley is a Belizean American artist, curator and arts administrator based in Miami, Florida. She received a BFA in Photography from New World School of the Arts. Her photographic work explores place and landscape as a means to connect and understand identity, belonging, histories, and relationships. Select exhibitions include *The land remembers the flood* at FAR Contemporary Gallery, Ft Lauderdale, Florida (2021), *From One Sea* at Mt Sinai Medical Center, Miami, Florida (2021), amongst others. Bradley is a two time Suncoast Regional Emmy award winner for her work on the films "Sasha Wortzel: Mining the Gaps" and "1402: Pork & Bean Blue."



Thom Wheeler Castillo lives and works in Miami, FL; Graduated from PNCA, Intermedia. Wheeler Castillo is interested in the landscape and ecosystems, past (art history) and present (Environmental Studies); he works from an interdisciplinary approach in his relentless pursuit of poetry, art history, earth science and anthropology. He is Co-director at Turn-Based Press, an artist-run print studio, whose mission is to offer facilities for printmakers in Miami, FL, as well as advance an appreciation for the medium and its history. He also produces works through experimentation and partnership that nurtures his visual work. One-half of the experimental Archival Feedback (along with Emile Milgrim), the duo engage in various critical dialogues of the moment, they approach the environment as a studio in the field, their ears and tools guiding questions and intentions. The fieldwork documents through sound a repeatable sensorial experience of the ever-changing landscape. AF expands their range working in other mediums including printmaking, video, sound manipulation and installation and through collaboration with artists, musicians, and scientists.



Kurt Nahar, from Paramaribo, Suriname, started his art education at the Nola Hatterman Art Academy in Suriname and continued his studies at the Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts in Jamaica. Nahar uses his art to express his thoughts and emotions on various subjects related to questionable social and political circumstances in Suriname and other countries worldwide. He believes that artists have a responsibility to expose their viewers to the social reality. He does so in a bold and often confrontational manner and thus hopes to increase awareness and stimulate discussion about the sensitive subjects that he brings to light. Political injustices, social inequality and the widespread abuse of power are among his main themes. His technique is inspired by the methods of his predecessors from the era of Dadaism. The use of collage techniques and simple objects is characteristic of his art.





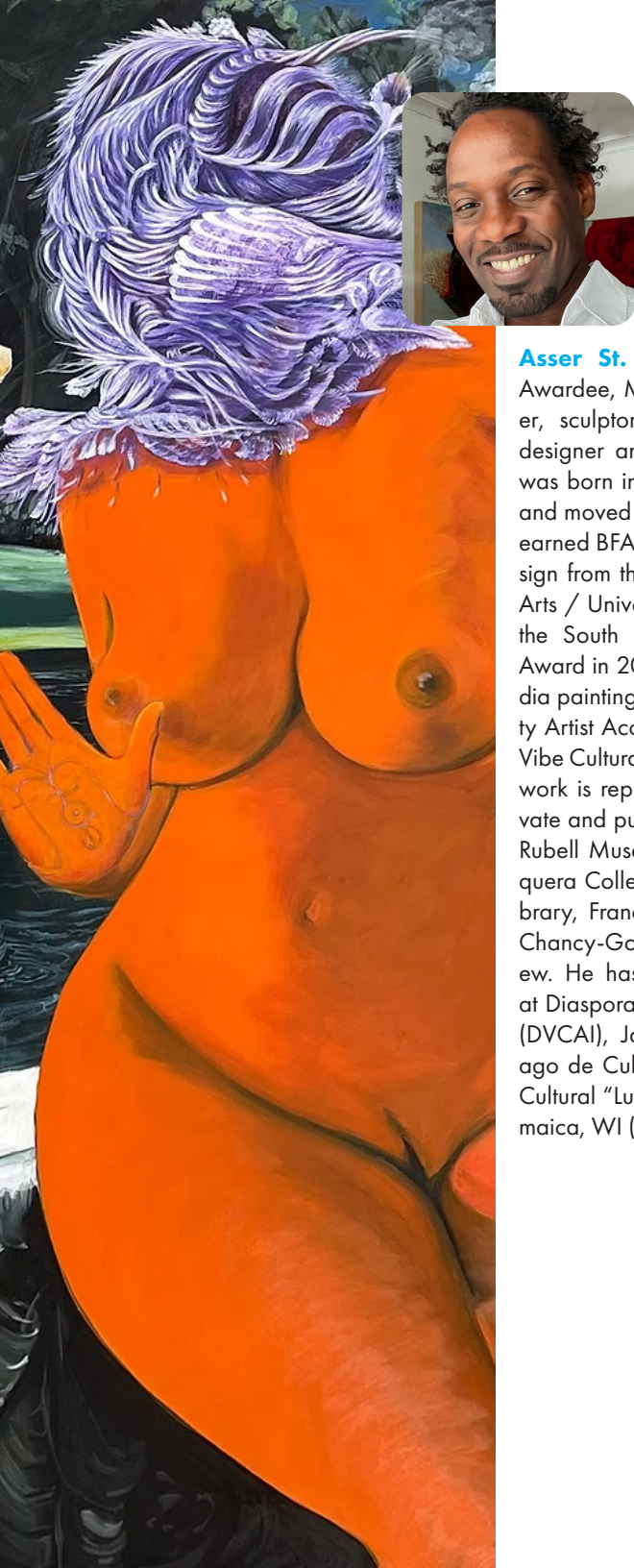
Izia Lindsay is a mixed media artist who explores with both digital and traditional media. His artwork addresses symbolism in Caribbean iconography that is rooted in tradition but interpreted with contemporary ideas. Caribbean iconography is used as a basis to create his multi-layered artistic narratives. His subject matter tackles issues of identity and class in a post-colonial society. His research stems from material culture, indigenous societies, traditions and the ever-changing landscape of the Caribbean. Lindsay uses bold, geometric shapes that juxtapose and intersperse to form his multilayered artistic pieces. Lines and shapes are conceptually layered and can be characterized as controlled naturalism. The thematic whole is a cultural narrative reproducing the dualities of his turbulent, cosmopolitan, Caribbean life.



Roy A. Wallace travels with the DVCAI team as a Photographer and Logistics Manager. He is detailed and enjoys the mechanics of preparation and documentation. His technical ability provides our team with practical “can do support” and building infrastructure for our exhibitions.

“I produce my images in response to the demand to be an image. And yet it is a decentering act: there is no transparent, total subject; there is full knowledge of self.”

Roy loves photography and is a committed student of the craft. Born in Jamaica, he is an avid tennis player and coach. Educated at The University of Florida and Florida International University, he is a core working member of the DVCAI Team.



Asser St. Val is a DVCAI Catalyst Awardee, Multi-disciplinary artist, painter, sculptor, installation artist, graphic designer and musician, Asser Saint-Val was born in Port-de-Paix, Haiti, in 1974 and moved to South Florida in 1988. He earned BFAs in painting and graphic design from the New World School of the Arts / University of Florida. He received the South Florida Cultural Consortium Award in 2006 and 2011 for mixed media paintings and the Miami Dade county Artist Access Grant and The Diaspora Vibe Cultural Incubator grant in 2017. His work is represented in a number of private and public collections including The Rubell Museum, Dr. Arturo & Liza Mosquera Collection, Miami-Dade Public Library, Francie Bishop Good, and Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez Collection to name a few. He has participated in residencies at Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI), Jacmel, Haiti (Fosaje), Santiago de Cuba (Casa del Caribe & Taller Cultural "Luis Diaz Oduardo"), and in Jamaica, WI (Edna Manley College).



Lauryn Lawrence, a Jamaican and Dominican American artist and curator whose work examines her experiences as an Afro-Latina intersectional feminist. Born and raised in South Florida, where she is currently based, Lawrence holds a Master of Arts in Museums, Galleries, and Contemporary Culture from the University of Westminster, London, UK, and a Bachelor of Arts in Arts and Art History from Florida International University. Her multimedia works are both analytical and reflective. Lawrence emphasizes capturing representations of intersectional communities in society and paying attention to the relationship between people and their spaces.



Special Thanks:

DVCAI 2025 committee team members:

Rosie Gordon-Wallace , Kim Yantis, Izia Lindsay, Roy Wallace, Tanya Desdunes

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MAC) and Diablo Rosso, with cultural liaison Marnie Walker

Design:

Izia Lindsay, M.F.A.

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Artist and Photographer

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Board Member

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Notes

Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI) will conduct its second International Cultural Exchange to Panama & "Caribbean Global Currents II: Panama."

The theme, 'Talking Across Difference,' engages with the region's contemporary artists in a conversation about the influences of nationhood and sovereignty, the shared history of the Panama Canal, and the post-canal influence on Caribbean lives and Panama-American lives in Miami.

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