

# DRACONIAN SWITCH

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niceornasty  
**eroticart** week

23rd June - 2nd July  
trinidad & tobago





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Nicole Martin Clarke  
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Dave Williams

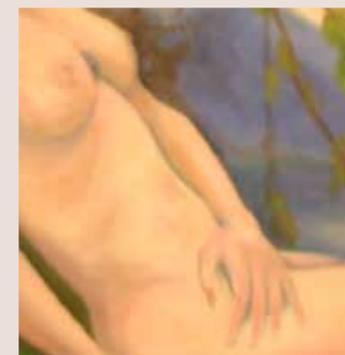
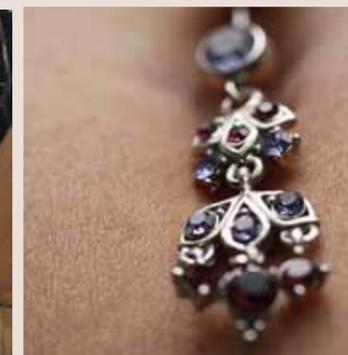
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THE COLLECTIVE  
and YOU

This 8th issue of Draconian Switch features Trinidad and Tobago's first ever **Erotic Art Week (EAW)** as curated by **Dave Williams**. Organized by Williams, and supported by Soft Box Gallery Curator **Nisha Hosein**, Artist **Chris Alexis**, Architect **Terry Smith** and Designer **Richard Rawlins** off an initial impetus by Alexis, the EAW featuring the work of 50 plus artists, was a 10 day festival of the best of Trinidad and Tobago's Erotic Art.

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# inveiling

SOFTBOX GALLERY • EROTIC ARTWEEK 2009

## GEOFFREY MACLEAN

From the Venus of Willendorf, said to date from 24,000 to 22,000 B.C., to the Cerne Abbas Giant, to Trinidad and Tobago's Francisco Cabral's "Outhouse", artistic expression has always portrayed human sexuality. The Venus of Willendorf, with an idealized female form, her vulva, breasts, and swollen belly heavily pronounced, suggests a strong connection to fertility. Although the age of the Cerne Abbas Giant, near Dorchester, England, 180'0" (55 metres) high, carved into a hillside, is not known, it is thought to be Celtic in origin and shows a club-wielding man with an erect phallus.

Throughout the ages, the debate has raged as to the point at which artistic expression crosses the line of public decency. From Pope Pius IV, who in 1564 instructed that the genitalia of the Vatican's classical nude paintings and sculptures be covered with loincloths and fig-leaves. The loincloths and fig-leaves were later removed under Pope John Paul II.

But Trinidad and Tobago's society has never been backward in making judgments that the law would have difficulty in upholding. Theodora Walter, early in the twentieth century, was not only considered eccentric, but morally wayward for painting nudes, a subject considered in every civilized society not only to be acceptable, but essential in the process of artistic

learning and the appreciation of form. The Society of Trinidad Independents was condemned as immoral by church and society for encouraging life classes and the publication of nudes, bringing an end to Trinidad and Tobago's most important movement in painting in the twentieth century and contributing to the exile in New York of one of its most talented members.

In 1964, Jerome Hill was charged with having "published an obscene picture of a nude woman in a snackette on St. Vincent St, Port of Spain". Hill was acquitted after Appeal, based on a judgement delivered by the Chief Justice, which was of the opinion that, substantially, the picture's "exhibition or publication is for the public good, as being necessary or advantageous to religion or science, literature or art". This despite the Judge admitting rather tongue-in-cheek that he had seldom heard of works of art being exhibited in such a location!

The publication in Galerie Magazine of Cabral's "Outhouse" in 1992 caused concern with some readers. The editor was accused of publishing pornography. Yet Cabral's message is very strong. Sexual repression is symbolized by relegating this form of expression to the toilet. But moreso, by introducing very specific images, Cabral remonstrates with the viewer that the feeding of Caucasian images through

imported literature to the adolescent black male from Trinidad and Tobago, is determining his developing sense of the human physical aesthetic. It embarrasses only by the directness of its message, but in this age of tell-it-all therapy of Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Phil and the sex and violence of American television, "Outhouse" pales by comparison in its normalcy. It might be noted that when first exhibited, the exhibition was opened by the then Attorney General, Anthony Smart and closed by Archbishop Anthony Pantin who described at "not only an artistic exhibition, but a spiritual event".

More recently, Martin Mouttet's "Balanced" shockingly combines human spirituality and sexuality, the essence of a balanced existence. The image used is typical of the traditional images of the Virgin Mary that are based on Pagan images of the Goddess of Fertility. Mouttet's piece is bordered by the words of a Tori Amos song "Icicle", in which she speaks of the hypocrisy of the church relative to human sexuality.

In 1992, Steve Ouditt's "Fertility Man", part of the design for the backdrop panels for the stadium was censored by the Carifesta Committee. About the same time, one of the more sophisticated public collections wished to purchase a piece by Edward Bowen, but the deal was cancelled when Bowen refused to change the

name of the painting from "Ghos' Totee".

The United States is also known on occasions for its extreme prudishness. Several of leading European artist Lucien Freud's paintings were banned from exhibition in the United States as the models for his nudes were his daughters, a particularly irrelevant consideration to the quality of the work.

Art is truth presented in an aesthetic form. And the word aesthetic does not necessarily describe that which looks good. It would be extremely naïve to expect everything artistic to be "beautiful" or socially "polite". In one of the better known cases in the United States, the Director of a gallery that showed a piece by Robert Mapplethorpe was charged with obscenity and subsequently acquitted. One of the jurors commented: "We felt we had no choice even though we may not have liked the pictures. We learned that art does not have to be pretty." If this were not true, most of the Great Masters would immediately be relegated to oblivion, including the pious Hieronymus Bosch for his "Garden of Delights". And what about the great artists of the human form, of social behaviour, political conscience and erotica: the Egyptians, the





In 1995 a calendar produced by ALM Airlines in Curacao was seized by customs and denied release when it was shipped to Trinidad, because it showed a reproduction of a painting of a nude, "Dividing Line", by Irénée Shaw. It was considered not only obscene, but not "representative of" the art of Trinidad and Tobago.

Greeks, the Romans, Michaelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, Rembrandt, Hogarth, Turner, Beardsley, Picasso, Arpel, etc., etc. – all artists that are well respected by the sophisticated Trinidadian and whose work, no doubt, would be acceptable to the majority in published form.

Covering – or perhaps not admitting – our sins, is a traditional and favourite pastime of the Trinidadian. Call it Victorian, a product of religion, racial distrust, or just plain ignorance, we continue to fool ourselves about our morality, sexuality and social and cultural relationships.

With the promotion of mediocrity in art by most of the so-called "art" galleries in Trinidad and Tobago continuing unchecked, it is a terrible indictment if one is to believe that our society is so insecure, dishonest and hypocritical that it not only allows its judgment to be clouded by the protective opinions of a socially unsophisticated few, but that it is incapable of positively judging an "erotic" aesthetic other than that displayed in a most blatant form by the expressions of Carnival.

left:  
Dividing Line  
Irénée Shaw

previous:  
Soft Box  
Gallery.

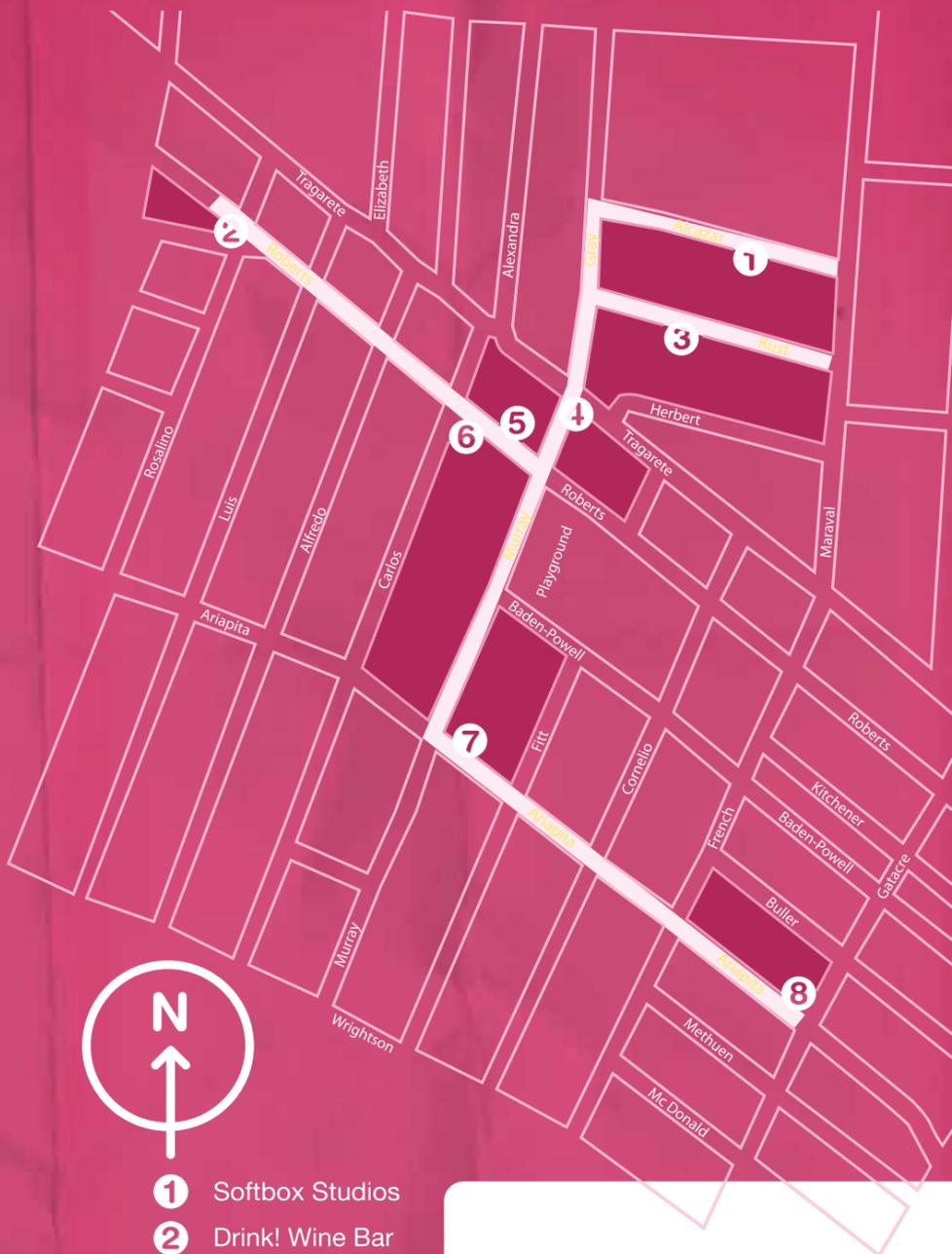
## Nice or Nasty?

Not art in education, not art to keep the youth off the street, not art to simply pretty the walls. Erotic Art Week wants to present work that provokes the mind, enlivens the senses, stimulates exchange, or at least evokes a blush.

Of utmost importance to us is the need to create and find physical and mental spaces where art is made relevant, and relevance is made art.

The event runs from 23rd June to 2nd July, 2009 and will be spread across nine venues. The 2009 theme is "Open" - opening spaces, minds and mouths.

American Actress, Stella Adler once said, "Life beats down and crushes the soul, art reminds you that you have one". We want to unleash those reminders.



- 1 Softbox Studios
- 2 Drink! Wine Bar
- 3 CMB Annex
- 4 Island People
- 5 Alice Yard
- 6 Brooklyn Bar
- 7 Sky Bar
- 8 The Corner Bar
- 9 \*& Euphoria (across town)

eroticart-tt.com  
eroticartt@gmail.com  
(868) 302-0157

eroticart week



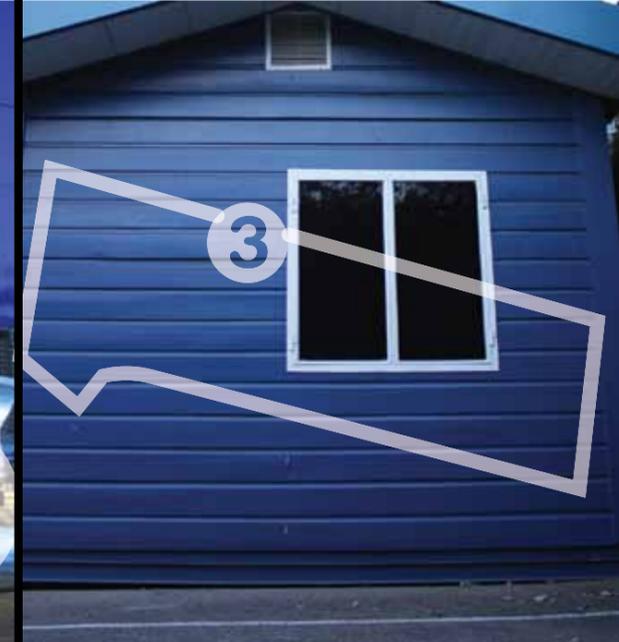
### 1 • Soft Box Gallery

Stuart Hahn, Shalini, Kwyn Johnson, Paul Kain, Boscoe Holder, Harold Jiminez, Jackie Hinkson, Wendy Nanan, Nicole Craig, Milton Duque, Rex Norton, Bertrand de Peaza, Michelle Isava, Rodell Warner, Irénée Shaw



### 2 • Drink! Wine Bar

Tracy Assing  
Dean Arlen  
Gillian Trotman  
Christian Alexis  
Justine Hosein



### 3 • The Annex at CMB

Laura Ferreira, Kern Pierre, Silverstar, Dave Williams, Richard Rawlins, Kevin Reis, Darren Ramirez, Natasha Mahabir, Brian Roberts, Renee Pollonais, Jimmel Daniel, Sabrina Charran

Imagine a Woodbrook, filled with people who walked the streets, not transfixed by fear but by art; who did not collapse before a criminal element but instead, choose to set themselves free to an ideal, an expression, a thought... often relegated to the shadows of a Carnival Morning. Imagine a Woodbrook that "unbegrudgingly" [not actual word] OPENed its space to over 60 artists and artistes who defined, redefined, provoked and stroked the mind as they discussed [through their various mediums] The Erotic. One Week. Nine locations. Erotic Art Week. Sparked from a simple "Why not" between four thinkers (Christian Alexis, Terry Smith, Richard Rawlins and Dave Williams), Erotic Art Week made us examine ourselves, come face to face with our sensuality/sexuality in a way that was honest and altogether unpretentious. And for that short period in time – we felt, acted and understood that we were alive. Oh! Did we mention all the planning and execution took place in only six weeks (who say Trinis lazy?) Many have walked away sated. Personally... we can't wait for next year. -TJH



4



5



6



7



8



9

4 • Island People  
Daniella Carrington, Darren Chee Wah,  
Terry Smith, Marilyn Morrison, Bertrand  
de Peaza

5 • Alice Yard  
Marlon Darbeau, Jason Winter-Roach,  
Silverstar, Justine Hosein,  
Christine Healy

6 • Brooklyn Bar  
M.M Malone, Dominic Thomas, Jason  
Winter-Roach, Marie Wyatt,  
Brianna McCarthy

7 • Sky Bar  
Talk Erotic – panel discussion  
Wed. July 1st - 5:30 pm  
“Carnival and the Erotic”  
Earl Lovelace, Atillah Springer, Derrick  
Lewis, Dr.Charleston Thomas,  
Giriraj Ramnanan, Anya Ayoung-Chee

8 • The Corner Bar  
“Open UP”  
Spoken Word/performance  
Monday 29th June - 8:30 pm  
featuring  
Muhammad, Sheldon Holder of 12 The  
Band, Janique Dennis, Darryn Boodan,  
Indra Ramcharan performing Richard  
Rawlins, Chiz'1, Paula Obe, Stacy  
Warwick, Tracy Hutchings, Adrian  
Daniel & Mandisa Foster,  
N9 Dance Co., Colin Robinson  
DJ: Tracy Assing

9 • Euphoria Lounge  
Closing Party - Fri. July 3rd

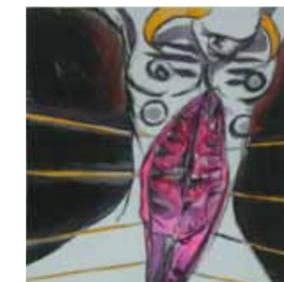
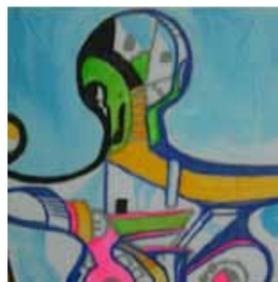
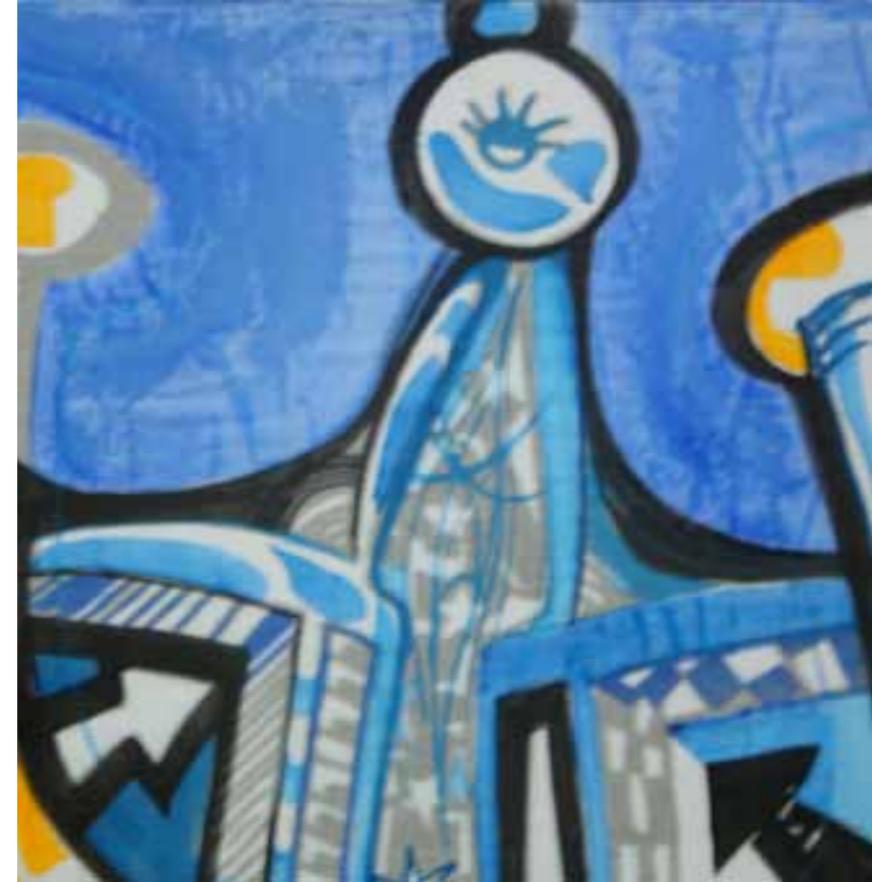
&

10 • Gallery Republic Studio  
Sydenham Avenue, St. Anns  
“17W”  
New Works by Darren Cheewah

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Wendy-Ann Garcia, CMB Advertising, Beena  
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Allen-Agostini, Jamie Lee-Loy, All the Patrons  
of all our exhibition venues.



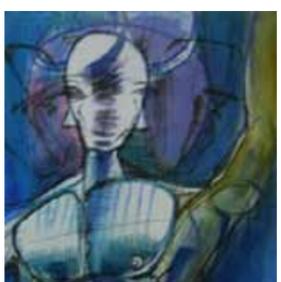
Jus come. The whole festival type exhibition thing is crazy! PPL actually walkin' around Woodbrook going to different venues, galleries. Fuckin crazy. To be a part of it too. insane. ok. - Rodell Warner



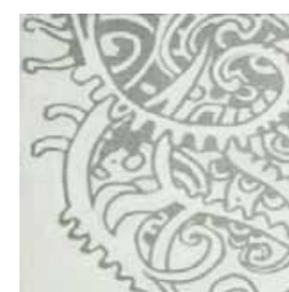
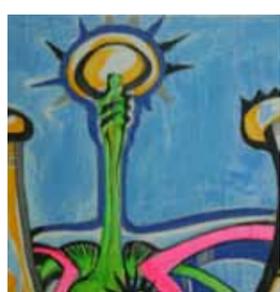
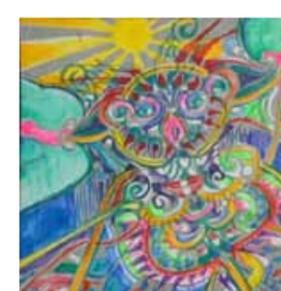
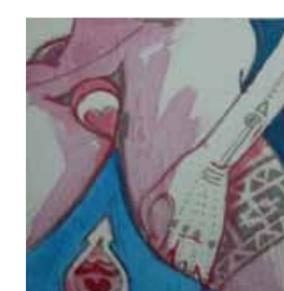
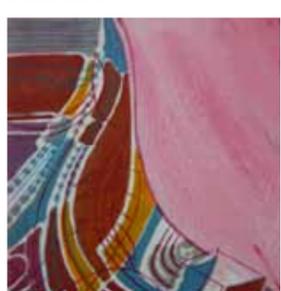
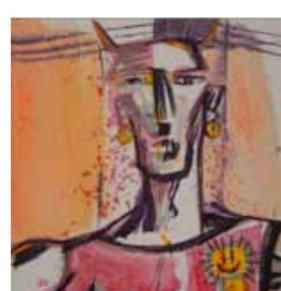
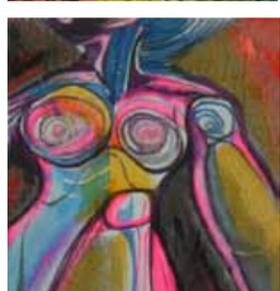
After 33 leaves I find a disposable gem. I create with intuitive ease and illustrate by inspiration.

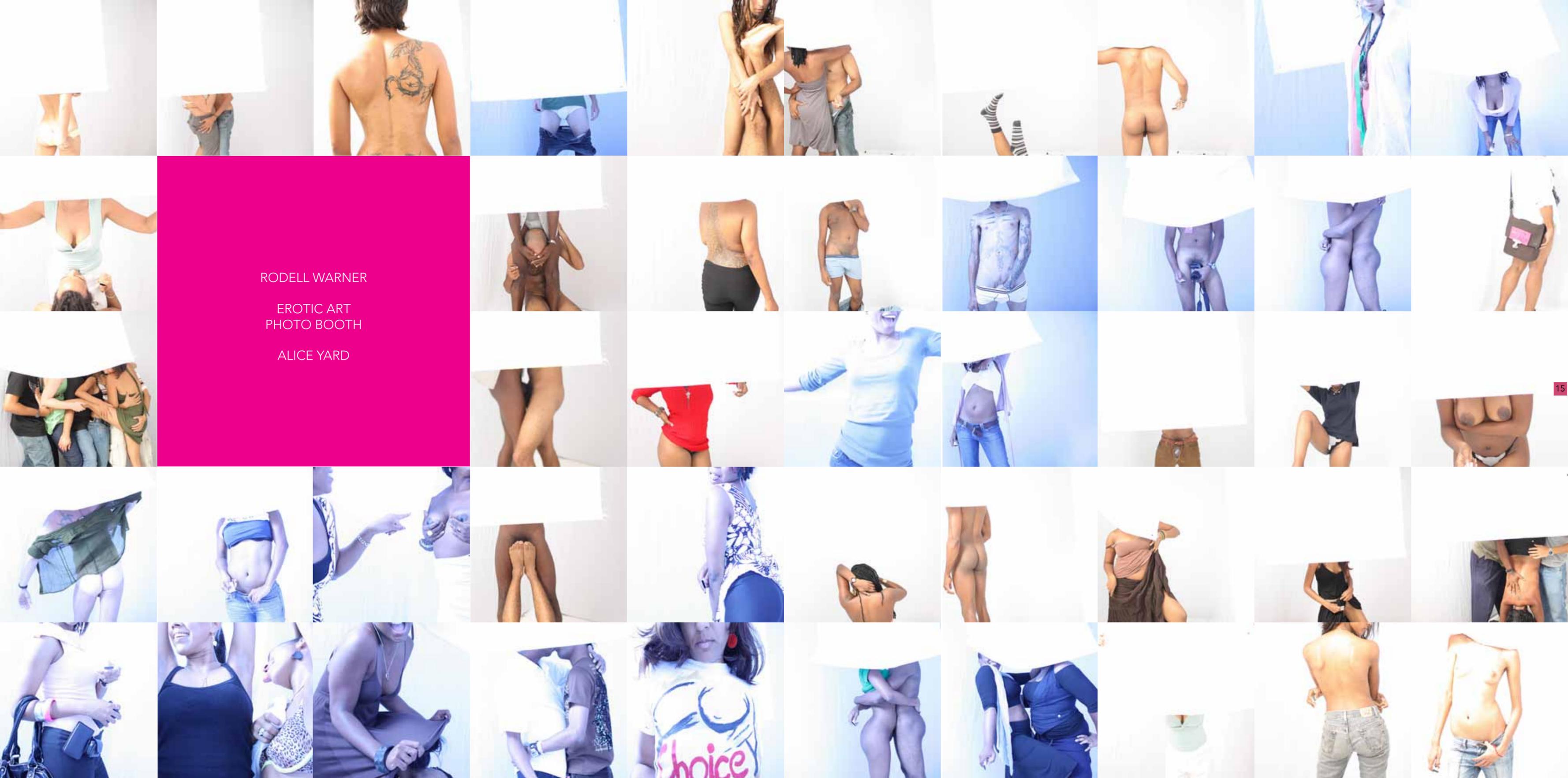


DARREN CHEEWAH  
17w



EROTIC ART WEEK  
REPUBLIC OF  
SYDENHAM  
GALLERY





RODELL WARNER

EROTIC ART  
PHOTO BOOTH

ALICE YARD



# U GOIN' IN?

-RODELL WARNER p h o t o g r a p h e r

**“Cameras are Erotic. Yeah. You throw a camera in a situation people start acting, things start happening. You know?” – Rodell Warner**

**DAWG! You have undoubtedly created one of the most memorable events of the Erotic Art Week. What prompted this social experiment?**

Thanks for saying that :) it's crazy how everything worked out. What I wanted was to make work for erotic art week that was an extension of what I was already thinking and making work about and that's the people around me; our collective identity, what we're like, how we want to be seen and all

the things that go along with that. So in the context of this event, I wondered what we would do with a camera given the privacy of an empty room, no rules and the option of anonymity.

Although, with the knowledge that the photos would be made almost immediately public and just sitting on a table for anyone to take, I really thought no one would participate.

**The word that comes to mind when I think about your project is LIBERATING! Is that what you set out to do?**

No, not at all. I just wanted to see what would happen and show that to an audience. What participants felt and how they behaved was as surprising to

me as I think may have been to them. **In a recent IND!groove interview you said you don't really know what erotic is... what about now?**

No, I think I have a much better idea now. Not just from the experience with the booth but other artists' work as well. I think it has something to do with being comfortable and free. Comfortable, free people can really surprise you.

**We live in a “reality TV world”. Do you think that impacted much on the way people... approached... your installation (the photo booth)?**

Oh yea, definitely. Some people were super interested in anonymity and others very much in publicity. The word “facebook” came up a lot in the little informal pre-booth question-answer session that happened with anyone unfamiliar with the project.

I've e-mailed photos to quite a few people who undoubtedly would have shared their photos on social networking sites and there were a bunch of people who just completely ignored the screen element and just showed their faces in the photos. But that's the nature of portraiture, I think. The thing that makes photos of people interesting and is how different we all are so I appreciated every kind of response and whatever they were influenced by, I think, would

have only reflected the times and made the photos more valuable as records of how we are.

**Was it good for you too? (Translation: Was it as liberating for you as it was for those who participated?)**

Yea. Real good. For one, I had a ton of help to make the thing happen, (with the last minute location change especially), and the technical bits and logistics to be worked out and things to be sewn and borrowed and picked up and built and all those things. **Anderson Mitchell** and **Brianna Mc Carthy** and

**Marlon & Melissa Darbeau** and **Dave Williams and Richard Rawlins and Sean Leonard and Terry Smith and Damian Libert and a bunch of people** just really, really put a hand to make it work. Lotta love, and it felt really good to be in the middle of all that.

I really appreciated it.

The other thing is that I feel I've made something now that I find valuable and that people are excited about and talking about and that's probably the most satisfying thing.



MARLON DARBEAU  
PLAYFUL THINGS  
THE BOX ALICE YARD







SABRINA CHARRAN

MY UGLY CUNT IS PRETTY  
WHEN IT HURTS INSTALLATION

ALICE YARD

# OPEN UP

EROTIC ARTWEEK SPOKEN WORD • CORNER BAR GALLERY

*"What will you say to make me want you?!?... EROTIC ART WEEK, SPOKEN WORD night. Tonight @ 8:30pm @ Corner Bar."* – **Terry Smith's Facebook Status**

Wild chatter fills the air as people swoon in expectancy. Ambient lighting intoxicates the masses who may or may not already be intoxicated by foreign means. The DJ (the charming Tracy Assing who I must say I fin'... real hot for days) blasts Color Me Badd's "Sex You Up". The mood is being set for OPEN UP – The Erotic Art Week's Spoken Word/Performance Set.

I must say, I don't know what I was expecting but what happened Tuesday night was certainly not it. It was worlds more! I have a friend who generally describes poetry as a bunch of people talking about "MY THIGHS! BY BIG BLACK THIGHS!" but what I saw there... what I felt at the CORNER BAR was what could be a true spoken word experience. And I'm qualified to say this because I'm an anti-social git with a superiority complex so I DON'T go to much spoken word sets. I want to go to an event and feel like EVERYONE was using their God-given talents appropriately and unabashedly.

Again... UNABASHEDLY! And "OPEN UP" provided that. I saw a girl clad in white vest, panty and cigarette perform an honest portrayal of what the "booty call" really means.

*"INITIALLY IT WAS JUST A FUCK FOR YOU"* - **Indra Ramcharan**

I saw a professor school us on "Hoe-House Etiquette" – not that we have those things in Trinidad you see.

*"The same way we don't have Gay men in Tobago"* – **Darryn Boodan (Bood Talks)**

His honest assessment of the sex trade was one of the night's major highlights. That coupled with His Articulateness Muhammad and the High Priestess of Poetry, Paula Obe made for what I can only describe as a truly brilliant evening. And Sheldon! 12 theband's Sheldon was simply phenomenal.

Nothing was drawn out...nothing was boring and people listened! Thank god for no OPEN MIC. EAW "OPEN UP" WAS an eye opener. It showed me "ok... this IS what an event should be". and the girls in the audience weren't half bad either.

Tracy J H



JANIQUE



STACY WARWICK



MUHAMMAD



25



INDRA RAMCHARAN



DARRYN BOODAN



TRACY HUTCHINGS



SHELDON OF 12



PAULA OBE



COLIN ROBINSON



# EVERYTHING CHIZ\*L



Recently emerging from T&T Fashion Week and one of the guests of this year's Erotic Art Week, Spoken Word Event Ivaek Archer! Insert applause here.

Word Erotic:  
**D.S.: What is the meaning of your name?**

**Ivaek: I'm made to understand that its supposed to mean "knowing God".**

**D.S.: What's that, like Greek or something?**

**Ivaek: I don't know what language. I asked my father at age 18 how he came up with my name (I don't know why I it never dawned on me to ask before) and he said while he was meditating.... It just came to him and the meaning just came to him. I don't know if it came from any particular language...**

**D.S.: And your brand name is "Chiz\*I"... why'd you choose THAT name?**

**Ivaek: The clothes themselves are very body conscious. They're for somebody who is in charge of their sexiness. They have no level of reluctance about who they are and what they are... and the clothes just bless up that.**

Deeds Erotic:  
**D.S.: What is the most erotic thing you've ever done or ever had done to you?**

**Ivaek: (rocks head back a little) Wow. Going through the files dey boy. (pause). I trying to figure out how it occurred – cause it was broad daylight... I had sex in Central Park and I remember there were tourists walking around. I was behind a bush... I was trying to work out "how did I do that"... I think maybe because it was broad daylight and because it was unanticipated that's one of the more (recent) erotic things I remember.**

**D.S.: sounds like fun for the whole family [chuckles]**

**Ivaek: Yeah fun for the whole family**

Fashion Erotic:  
**D.S.: I was watching the IndiGroove video and in it you said, "fashion governs what we wear and what we wear is on our bodies" so I want to ask you, who you think governs fashion? Especially on the heels of this Erotic Art Week where people are asking what is erotic and what isn't erotic, you know. Like who has the right to govern/dictate what erotic is? So in like manner – who [in your view] governs fashion?**

**Ivaek: There's a subset of people who (to draw an analogy) are the kind of people that would go to Alice Yard – if I had to Trini-ize it. Meaning, people who are a little ways out of the box; consciously or unconsciously able to twist existing trends into their own personal take on it. And by just subtly twisting one trend you create a new trend. And I believe trend forecasters seek out and study the development of "trends" of that sub section. If I may be so egotistical to say – I may be of that sub section because I personally**

**will never feel comfortable wearing something that everybody else is wearing. I mean I like that but... how can I make it true to me.**

**HERE'S AN EXAMPLE – Ivaek's Bumsee Brace belt.**

**"these guys are wearing their pants underneath their ass and they're wearing their shirts OVER. And I'm like 'why are you putting the shirt over the ass dude?' if you mean to show the ass, show the ass! So I have a Boomsee Brace belt where it's OUTSIDE the pants altogether. It framing the bumsee... (for sagging butts)."**

**I'm not saying that people will see that and automatically wear it but the fact that I'm taking something that already exists and trying to find a new way to do it... that is how I think "trends" are developed. And then... everyone else buys into that trend analysis (as created by the sub section) and then create the fabrics, the colors, the trimmings, the buttons... it's a whole machinery. But I think the people who are driving the machinery are not even CONSCIOUS of driving said machinery.**

**D.S.: You also said in that interview that, "our bodies are an erotic medium" so I'm asking YOU in the context of CHIZ\*L, what originality have you brought to this medium?**

**Ivaek: What I try to do as a designer is to use various design devices to work with various erogenous zones of the body. Five years ago when low rides pants became very popular, it was the upper hip bone area (between the navel and the upper hip bone) many low rides pants would fit into such a position that you would just get a peek at maybe underwear and the tops themselves would be cropped to give you just a slight of skin. So just the suggestion of that area is erotic so I use that effect of the hiding or the empathizing of various erogenous zones to make an item erotic, sexy, exciting to the viewer AND the wearer.**

**IVAEK ALSO HAS A FEMALE LINE**

**D.S.: why fashion? You can design, so u must have some level of cognitive thinking – why not channel that into something else?**

**Ivaek: I really have no answer for that question.**

# STACY

# WAR — OPENS UP

# WICK

**Stacy Warwick. Stacy Warwick is. Stacy Warwick is Erotic. Stacy Warwick is Erotic and downright smooth. Stacy Warwick is Erotic and downright smooth, like a coffee Liqueur after a strong meal. oh! And she writes. These are her thoughts:**

**(Is Stacy an Erotic?)** Definitely, I think eroticism exist in everything and everyone, what defines that eroticism is a willingness to see it as an advantage rather than the disadvantage that most people perceive it to be. **(Her writings come from...)** stuff taking place in my personal life or sometimes I choose to challenge myself with a new concept in my writing to see if I can accomplish it. **(for example...)** "Downe" was written during my coming out phase where the questions everyone was plaguing me with were "How can you be with a woman?" "What is it like?" "How does it feel?" "Downe" encompassed those feelings. "In My Head" is based on one of my favorite pastimes... fantasizing... whether we admit to it or not we all fantasize about something or someone. "Seeing" was written a few days before my performance... We have all had the experience of liming somewhere and seeing someone across the bar looking at you and you know they want to talk to you or approach you so this was me calling them over. **(About Spoken Word becoming predictable... one dimensional even)** I don't believe that art of any type can ever be one dimensional. Poetry and Spoken Word even less so. Every artist, poet, writer is different and will have a different take on everything, no two poets feel the same thing on the exact same subject. That's the beauty of art, it is very OPEN to interpretation. **(The next stage of STACY's evolution...)** I'm embracing the potential of taking my work in a more performance oriented direction and seeing what happen there... I'm very interested in getting involved in the arts on a broader scale than just my poetry to see where that goes. I love challenges and trying new things, I see it as an adventure that helps my creativity because no matter the outcome there's always something to write about. **(and if we said "slivers of jell-o"...)** I really hope this doesn't have to be PG 13...lol. But I see a naked woman lying on a bed with sliver's of red jell-o all over her body.



DEAN ARLEN  
TRANS GENDER  
DRINK WINE BAR GALLERY

"cup" the effort,  
including the pop  
regional simulators  
& parts quality  
\$17.95. Get  
only \$21.95!

### SHAP

Unisex Dong &  
Harness fits  
snuggly, with  
non-slip elastic  
straps to give  
secure fit.  
Foreskin-soft,  
non-vibrating  
latex dong is  
8 1/2" long &  
full 5" around to  
fill your partner  
with pleasure  
all night long!



NATURAL WORK  
& soft as flesh  
speed vibrator has  
thing extra going  
now you can exp  
the feeling of natu  
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Only

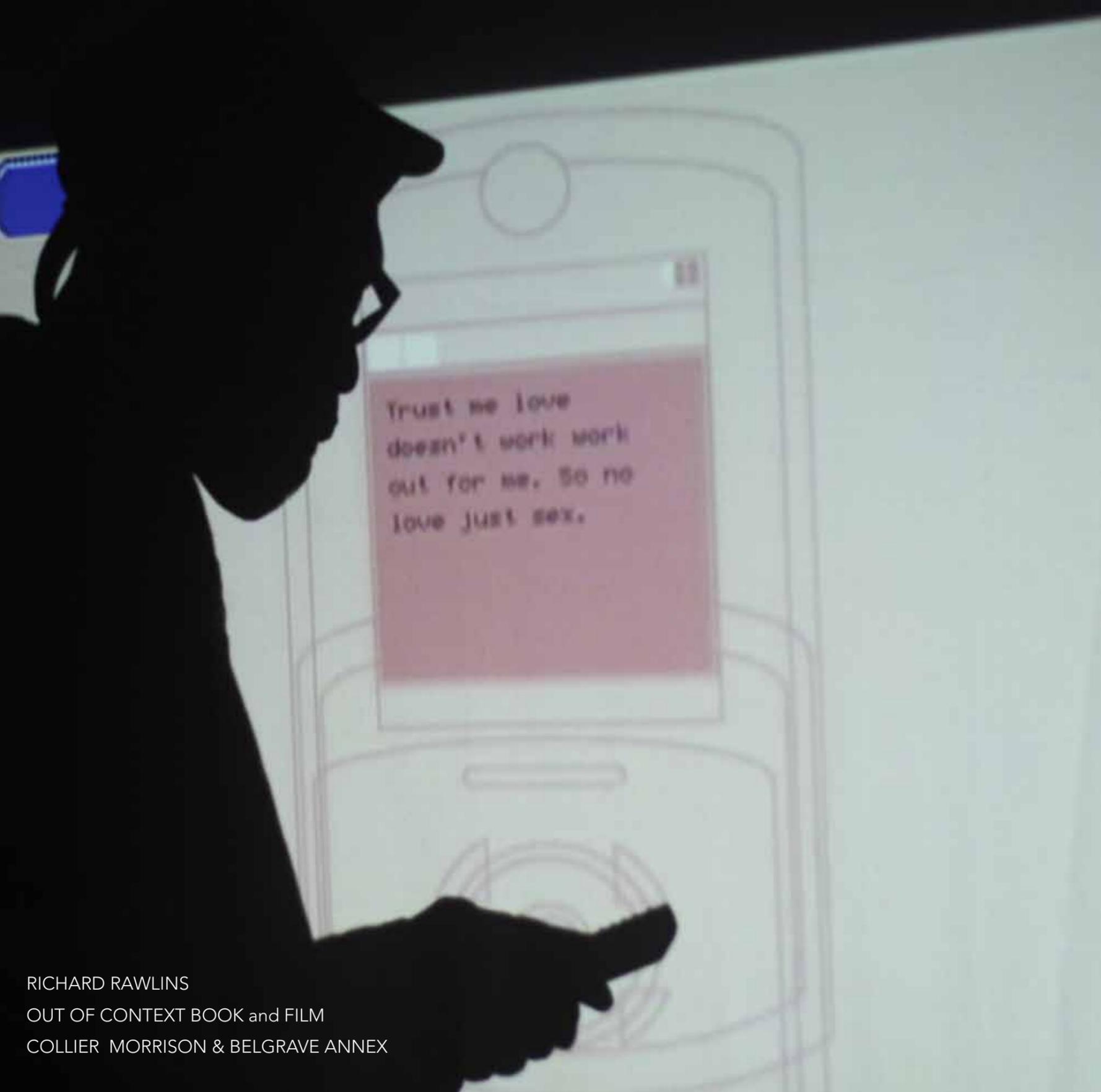




CHRISTIAN ALEXIS  
FIRST KISS  
DRINK WINE BAR GALLERY



ANDERSON MITCHELL  
PIGGY BANK  
DRINK WINE BAR GALLERY



RICHARD RAWLINS  
OUT OF CONTEXT BOOK and FILM  
COLLIER MORRISON & BELGRAVE ANNEX



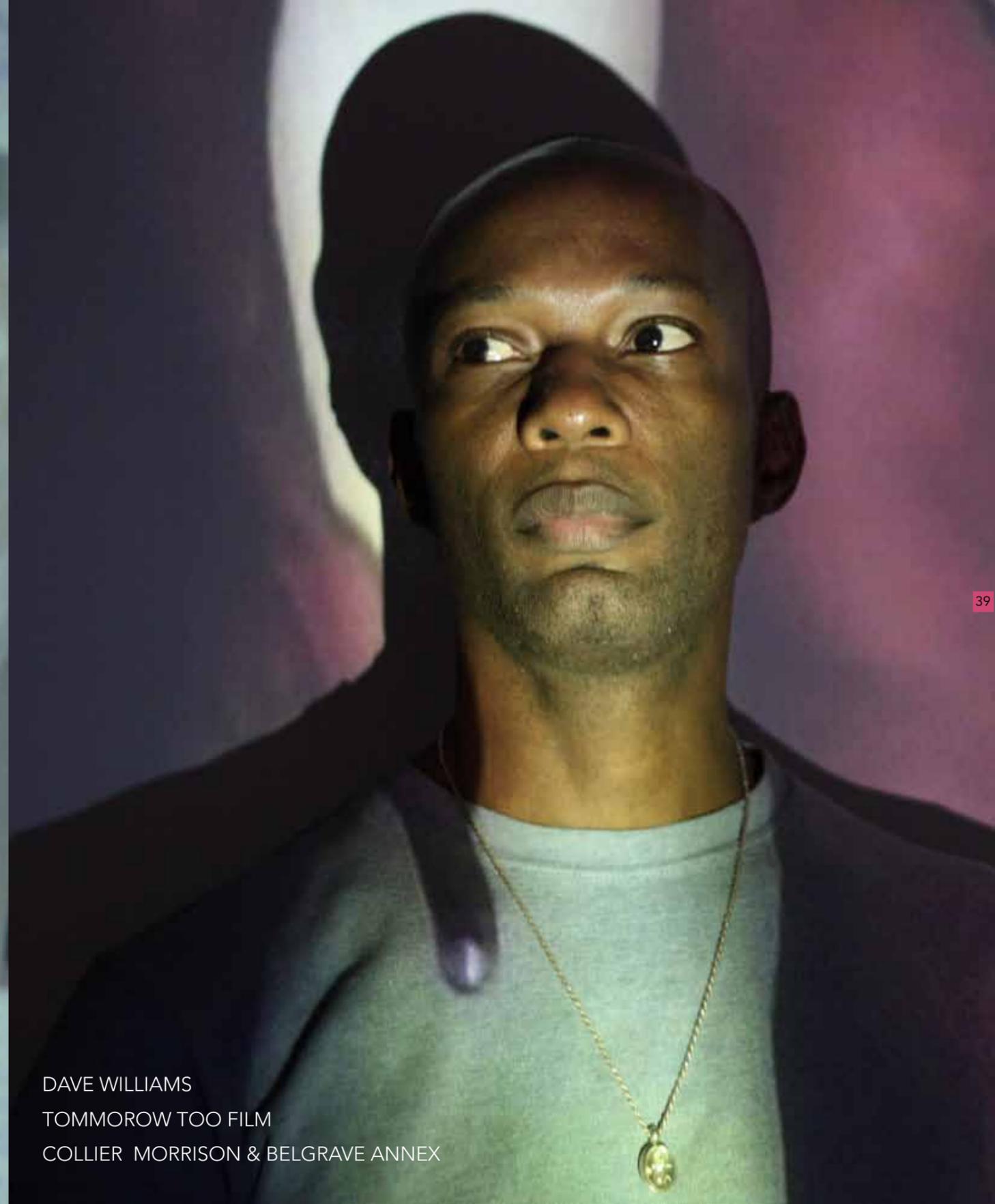
KERN PIERRE  
EVE ON HER SIDE  
COLLIER MORRISON & BELGRAVE ANNEX



WHY MY CONDOM BUSS?  
BRIAN ROBERTS  
COLLIER MORRISON & BELGRAVE ANNEX



DOLLY FILM  
THE COLLECTIVE  
COLLIER MORRISON & BELGRAVE ANNEX

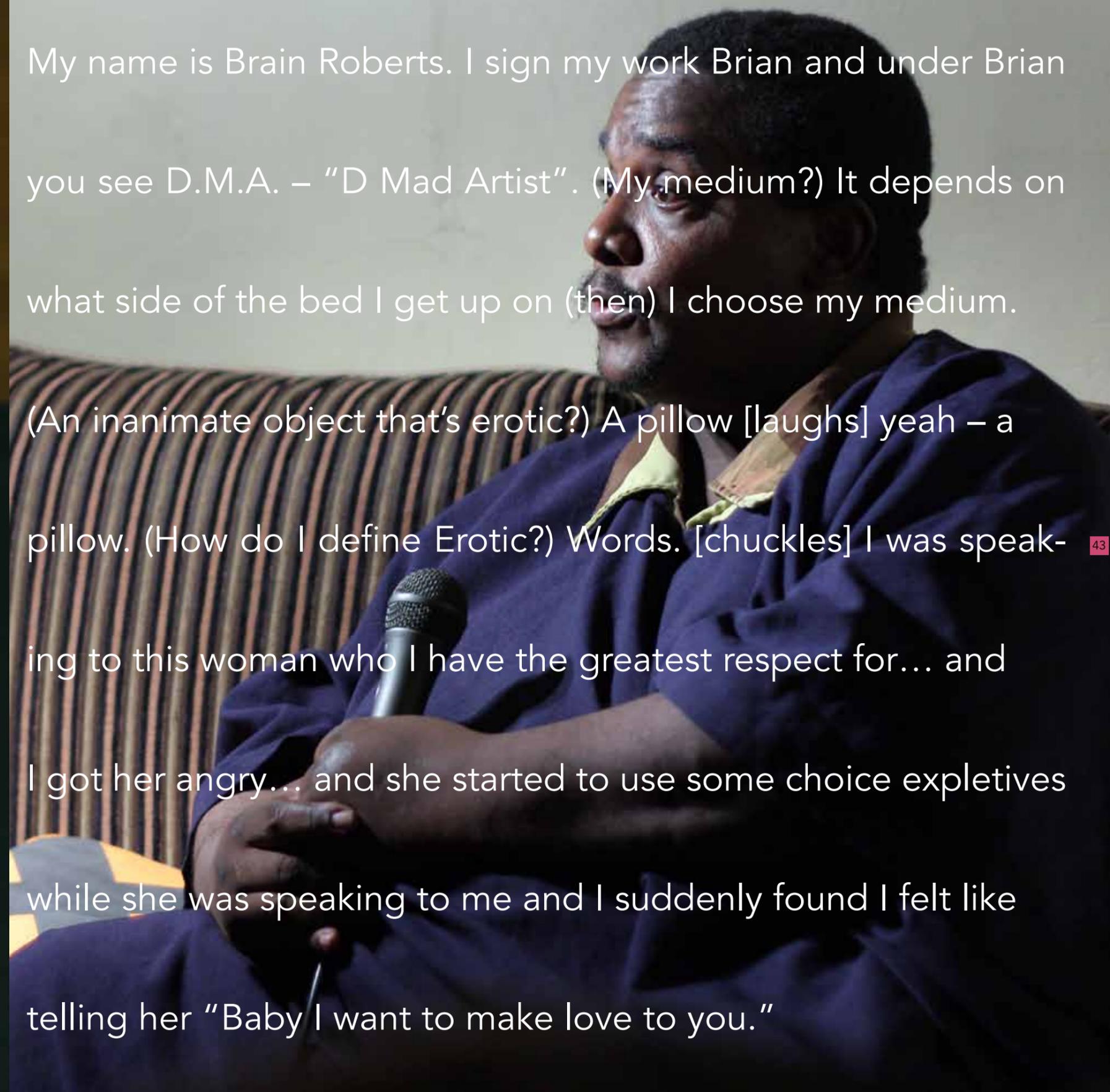


DAVE WILLIAMS  
TOMMOROW TOO FILM  
COLLIER MORRISON & BELGRAVE ANNEX





BRIAN ROBERTS  
MANNERISMS  
COLLIER MORRISON & BELGRAVE ANNEX



My name is Brian Roberts. I sign my work Brian and under Brian you see D.M.A. – “D Mad Artist”. (My medium?) It depends on what side of the bed I get up on (then) I choose my medium. (An inanimate object that’s erotic?) A pillow [laughs] yeah – a pillow. (How do I define Erotic?) Words. [chuckles] I was speaking to this woman who I have the greatest respect for... and I got her angry... and she started to use some choice expletives while she was speaking to me and I suddenly found I felt like telling her “Baby I want to make love to you.”



open. open? open! o... pen.

Either I lost the key or no one gave it to me. Or maybe there just wasn't one.

In a society of closet nymphomaniacs, closet gays and closet gods, I sat amongst the cultural academia, the liberated, the free, and searched desperately for a key.

We try to shock our 'fucking' selves with profanity, promiscuity and... couldn't shock ourselves into honesty. Syntax. Semantics. Silence. I, myself, had the words but stumbled with the voice.

So. I pray. Oh pen, grant me the strength to voice it here... Why is it that the very people we are guarding ourselves from are the same people we expect to guard us?

Apparently, the rope is immensely erotic. Holding it. Sweating near it. Passing over and under it. And watching people react to it.

And the public fetes vs VVVVIP. But who is excluding who? VVs can afford the WASAs and FIREs and LICENSINGs but 'fraid. Someone mash yuh and YOU apologize. Someone grab yuh gyal, YOU ent see nuttin'! And at the end, if yuh lucky and pay some piper a 20, most of yuh car should still be there.

So the all inclusive crowd can't be included. At all.

But Mr. Joe Labourer tries the all inc thing. Wrong hair. Jeans too low. You and how many dudes? Ticket is a month's salary. Doh whine, just pose...

So erotica comes with a price. And a context. And a rope.

Once upon a time, Adam found a fig leaf. And wore it – the original haut couture. And we're still peeping to see what's behind it...

So we're addicted to porn.

# TALKING THE CARNIVAL EROTIC EROTIC ARTWEEK 2009 SKY BAR

Meant to separate the erotic from the sexual, the conscious from the subconscious and the masses from the elite, it grants us the freedom to parade, crotch open to public scrutiny and scandal set aside till Wednesday morning... To embrace the schizophrenia that we disguise as history. Culture. Us.

But she still can't whine on her (unless it's a joke or a drunkenness or an act meant to tantalize). And HE should NEVER whine on HIM. Because, according to society's definition, that's not erotic. And according to academia (or culture – kinda de same damn ting), it's... the key I'm still seeking.

Ultimately, Carnival is the inversion of order. But if my inversion doesn't match your inversion, aren't we bound to clash?

So what next? Yuh tief a whine. Then, time passes, and yuh demand a whine. Till, years later, a set of youths beating yuh if yuh doh whine.

And we go back to the ropes. Less sexy. More necessary.

Do you care? Does he care? Does the person who scientifically tracked the number of hits, then calculated and reported, even remotely give a flying fu – shhh...

I do. Because 'The Dragon Can't Dance' gave us Sylvia. Every boy's... Every person's? Every West Indian's wet dream. And introduction to erotica. Forget Madonna. The foreplay of violence – man against man against sweat against pride – and the climax/frustration/excitement/confusion of passion.

In the ole days they sang, "Leave yuh iron by de door..."

In good times they'd "Rather buss a nut than buss a cap..."

Now. They "Run de nookie red, red, red..."

So as a convent girl, feteing on the weekend, playing J'Ouvert on Monday and pretty mas on Tuesday, then collecting ashes on Wednesday, should you pray? Can you pray? And what de mudder... do yuh pray for?



Forgiveness? Acceptance? Self.

Which all boils down to... the key.

Music. Alcohol. Darkness. Welcome to a nation's erotic space...

Erotic hideaway or guilty conscience? Why is this something we talk and laugh about with, not only friends, but strangers, office colleagues and peers?

Yet in a free space, where this is what we gathered to discuss, we can't even say the word 'fuck'?

FUCK! BULL! SHIT! CUNT! PISS! FAGGOT! ASS! SUCK! DYKE! PUSSY! FINGER! Lick! break! cum... fuck.

Is it sexier when I whisper it? Sexier or more erotic when I pretend I know nothing of it? Am offended by it? Sexiest when we hide it?

In darkness. Like secrets. Like shame...

Why won't you let me love it?

Embrace my erotic side. See the suggestion before the skin. And let your flesh pound when the band strikes and rises and falls and throbs together all over pieces of steel.

Conservative is hiding amongst 5000 people wearing the same bikini. Liberation could never be stressing and starving to look like everyone else. Woman is the object. Man is the subject.

But we pay. And we play. And we pay and we play and we pay and we play. Suffering ourselves in an effort, perhaps, to discover, understand, define our own eroticism. That comfort zone within ourselves. That flash of the eye.

And we've failed.

It's not a question. It is.

Familiarity breeds contempt. Play blind. Vote blind. Live blind. Am blind. Because it's so much easier to criticize than make a difference. Than walk a different path. Apparently, it's high school all over again.

But why even try, knowing that insanity is a minority of one?

Welcome to Erotic Art Week T&T 2009.  
Because someone has to start somewhere.

So yuh chippin down de road. Not a care in the world.  
And someone asks, "Where are you going?"

To get the key.



MARILYN MORRISON  
EVE  
ISLAND PEOPLE GALLERY





DANIELLA CARRINGTON  
THE PUBLIC PRIVATE  
ISLAND PEOPLE GALLERY



BRIANNA MCCARTHY  
12 GIRLS  
BROOKLYN BAR GALLERY



BROOKLYN BAR GALLERY



RICHARD RAWLINS  
SPACE FOR RENT  
BROOKLYN BAR GALLERY





## THE COLLECTIVE

TANYA MARIE WILLIAMS  
DAMIAN LIBERT  
DARREN CHEEWAH  
DAVE WILLIAMS  
MARILYN 'MARO' MORRISON  
NICOLE NOEL  
INDRA '10p' RAMCHARAN  
TERRY 'FREEK' SMITH  
MARLON DARBEAU  
TRACY J HUTCHINGS  
RODELL WARNER  
BRIANNA MCCARTHY  
CHRISTIAN ALEXIS  
DARRYN BOODAN  
IVAEK ARCHER  
RICHARD RAWLINS  
ANDERSON MITCHELL  
CHANTAL CLEMENT  
SUZANNE SALANDY  
AYODHYA OUDITT  
NICOLE MARTIN CLARKE

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<http://www.thescorch.com/gallery/chizl-menswear>

<http://bleedart.blogspot.com/>

<http://indraramchie.blogspot.com>

Almost like the old days of Carnival when people would walk from panyard to mas camp and then to panyard again. This week Woodbrook came to life for more than just its nightclubs and bars. With great novelty and excitement, Erotic Art Week opened last Wednesday at six locations around North/Central Woodbrook. The ten-day celebration of art and eroticism seems to have exposed more than greets the eye. The festival has unearth a community spirit and a new kind of art/business collaborations that will set the tone for art patronage in the new paradigm of local art. One visitor to the experience commented that he hadn't seen "so much work at a single art event at any time in this country". From well-established, internationally acclaimed artists like Boscoe and Geoffrey Holder, Sundiata, Jackie Hinkson, Irénée Shaw, Francisco Cabral, to emerging and new artists like Daniella Carrington, Anderson Mitchell, Dominic Thomas, Bruce Holley, Kwynn Johnson, Horold Jiminez, M.M. Malone, and Marlon Darbeau are among 54 artists who are featured in this festival of the erotic.

Businesses that have signed on for the festival like Co-rd Limited's Alice Yard, CMB Advertising, Lonsdale/Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, Island People, Brooklyn Bar, Soft Box Gallery, Drink Wine Bar, Corner Bar, Euphoria Lounge, and Sky Bar have opened their doors to collaboration and support for this immense project. -*Dave Williams*

