



## GA GARDNER

(Trinidad and Tobago, b. Trinidad)

### EDUCATION

1988 Courses in Art, Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg, PA.  
 1988-1990 Courses in Fine Art, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.  
 1991 B.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.  
 1993 M.A. in Education Technology, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.  
 1995 Ph.D. in Art Education, Computer Animation, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012 *Interconnections*, Athenaeum, Alexandria VA, January-March 11  
 2011 *Identity*, U Space Gallery, Atlanta, GA, January 26- February 26  
*Cross Section*, Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, January-February  
 2010 *Pieces of a Puzzle*, Soft Box Art Gallery, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, June-July  
 2009 *Color Content*, Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Washington, DC, October – November

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014 *Timeless Remnants*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC (3 person),  
 2013 *Fragmentation & Integration*, Morton Fine Art, Washington, DC (2 person),  
 2012 *Works with Paper*, Morton Fine Art Gallery, Washington, DC  
*Likeness: Interpretation of Portraiture*, Athenaeum, Alexandria VA,  
*Art In Embassies*, U.S. Department of State. Kingston, Jamaica.  
*50th Anniversary of Independence*, A Celebration, Embassy of the Republic of TT, Washington DC, June  
*DC NOW*, Morton Fine Art at Gallery B, Bethesda MD, April  
*Speak My Name*, The James E. Lewis Museum, Morgan State University,  
 2011 *Nine Gallery @ Hilyer Art Space*, Washington DC  
*Horizon Gallery*, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies (3-person)  
*6x6x2011* Global Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY  
*In the Spirit* Inter-Development Bank, Washington, DC, June,  
*About Face*, Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center, Dowell, MD,



- Small Works II*, Southwest Arts Center, Atlanta, GA  
*Urban Situation* Ernest Rubenstein Gallery, New York, NY  
2010 Mason Murer Fine Art, Atlanta, GA, August

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2004-2006 Professor of Art, University of the District of Columbia, Dept. of Mass Media, Visual & Performing Arts, Washington, DC  
1999-2002 Associate Professor of Art, George Mason University, New Century College, Fairfax, VA.  
1995-1999 Assistant Professor of Art, William Paterson University of New Jersey, Department of Art, Wayne, NJ.  
1993-1995 Teaching Assistant of Art, The Ohio State University, Department of Art Education, Columbus, OH.

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2012 Galleries: "*Beyond the Frame*" Washington Post, September 28  
*Likeness: Interpretations of Portraiture*, Washington Post, August 10  
*A Chat with Trinidadian Artist GA Gardner*, Island Vibes Magazine, May 12  
*Curator Displays DC Talent...*, Bethesda Patch, April 12  
*Interconnections*, GoingOutGuide, Washington Post, February 9  
*Layers of Meaning*, Weekend Pass, Express, Washington Post, January 26  
*Gardner's Interconnections to be Exhibited in Northern VA*, Guardian TT, January 21  
*Urban Situation* Catalog, Ernest Rubenstein Gallery, New York, NY, February  
*Featured Artist GA Gardner*, Artsy Shark, July 3  
*Inspired by the beauty around us*, Daily Express TT, June 28  
*Collage Aesthetic, Art: Jamaica, a place for thinking about contemporary art*, April 29  
*Featured Collage Artist: GA Gardner*, PaperStreet Supplies, April 22  
*GA Gardner: Caribbean Inspires artistic beginnings*, CAW Magazine, March 16  
2011 *Caribbean Country 93.5, Lets talk, Morning Radio Interview*, St. Croix, January 21  
*Artist from Trinidad opens show in F'sted*, St. Croix Avis, January 21, 2011  
*CMCA Holds Reception for "Cross Section," The Art of GA Gardner*, St. Croix Source 2010  
*Heritage Radio Station Interview*, TT October  
*C Television Station morning show Interview*, TT, October  
*CNC3 Television Station, Morning Show Interview*, TT, October  
*GA Gardner Interview*, Karamel Journals, Trinidad & Tobago Entertainment Company  
*"Pieces of a Puzzle," Mixed Media Collages by GA Gardner* Soft Box Art Gallery, Trinidad, West Indies. June 2010  
*"US-Based Artist Showcases His Pieces"* TT Guardian Newspapers, June 17  
*"Pieces of an Artist's Puzzle"* TT Newsday Newspapers, June 17  
*"Puzzle Pieces Come Together"* The Daily Express Newspapers, June 16  
*"Day Prime, Gayelle* The Channel, Television Station, Trinidad, June 8  
*"Elements of Hope: Story Behind the Obama Poster"* Designers 421, February 28,  
*"Portrait of a successful artist"* TT Guardian. March 30  
2009 New York Times online, January 18  
CNN's Larry King Live, January 18



*"Elements Of Hope: Carib World News Article"* Trinidad Artist Pays Tribute to Obama,  
Caribworldnews.com, January 7

*"The Art of Exploration and Transformation"* Homes of Color Magazine, Spring  
*Artist Works to Make Art Accessible and Viable"* Afro Arts and Entertainment, December 2

## **BIO**

GA Gardner was born in 1969 in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and migrated to the USA in 1988 where he earned his BA in Visual Arts and MA in Educational Technology from San Francisco State University. He also received a Ph.D. in Art Education from The Ohio State University. There he focused on Computer Art Education. When he emerged in 1995, he was already considered an international expert on the subjects of Computer Art Education, Computer Graphics and Animation, and a pioneer in the the area of large format digital fine art. Gardner created crisp and detailed three-dimensional images on water color paper that discussed the social elements of Caribbean cultures.

GA Gardner became well-known in the mid-1990s for his digital fine art, animation and multimedia. He explored the various aspect of 3D digital work as a fine art medium as well as created several short animated films. At the age of 25 Gardner was appointed as a full-time professor of art at William Paterson University and prepared students for animation careers at major studios such as Pixar Animation Studio, Industrial Light and Magic and DreamWorks SKG. During this time he authored 14 text books and published 100 books on the subject of art education which are used in universities in Asia, USA and Europe. His art was widely shown in New York's Soho art district. He was commissioned to do several album covers including that of hip-hop artiste Rakin "the 18th Letter" for Universal Records. Since 2007, he has turned to a more traditional form of art, creating mixed media collage and mixed media paintings that explores cultural identity.

His work has been exhibited at various museums and galleries in the USA, Asia and the Caribbean, including Art in Embassies, US Department of State, Kingston, Jamaica; the James E. Lewis Museum of Art; Paterson Museum, New Jersey; Nanjing College of Art, China; Corridor Gallery, New York; Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts, St Croix, USVI, Bergen Museum, New Jersey and Morton Fine Art, DC. He has been the subject of numerous articles and catalog essays. He has been awarded artist residencies in the Caribbean and Asia.

GA Gardner is represented by Morton Fine Art in Washington, DC, USA. He currently lives in Trinidad and Tobago and the USA.

## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

We are often exposed to dazzling amounts of print media in our daily lives. Many of us are engulfed by this information, from which it is almost impossible to unplug or tune out. This continuous stream of media is alluring, powerful, and even seductive to most but often not inclusive of diverse cultures; placing popular news over more important issues.

Through the lens of his Caribbean heritage, GA Gardner's work uses the media content to create an intimate viewpoint of his intercultural experience. He dissects, covers up, reveals, layers, and re-contextualizes the material in the print publications he uses, to construct pieces that specifically discuss issues of politics, race, culture, and identity.

The publications are a natural fit for Gardner, as they offer random vibrant color pallets, much like that of a typical Caribbean environment, and a great mixture of text and professionally photographed images. However the colors are universal and allow a conceptual approach to finding the common ground



among all cultures. The artist combines these media depictions and information with natural paper and synthetic materials to aid in his message. By deconstructing the images into strips, or bits of torn paper, and assigning new overlays of unifying colors to the materials, Gardner erodes the original content at various levels often reducing them to shades with traces of random colors. He also incorporates urban western grit, geometric African lines, contemporary images, and borrowed African and indigenous weaving techniques to create unified montage of textures.

The image that was once a bold headline new banner, or the newest eye catching product now struggles to be seen; muted, it now plays a secondary role to layers of paint and other mediums. The resulting serendipitous visual construction is an unsystematic reconfiguration and repurposing to discuss culture, heritage and the symbolism of color.