

PRESS RELEASE

NEW ART GALLERY OPENS AT EDEN PLAZA

The Eden Fine Art Seychelles Gallery opens at Unit 4, Eden Plaza (next to Nouvobanq) at the end of this week. Members of the public will be welcomed by gallery manager Shelley Morden and invited to view the first exhibition, entitled 'Seychelles Hot One Hundred'. As you might imagine, this exhibition features new works by 32 Seychellois and resident artists, ranging from large abstract paintings to small and delicate figurative studies. There are also sculptures and prints, and all works are for sale. Prices vary, but the gallery is confident that there is something to suit every pocket.

The exhibition reflects the diversity of fine art currently being produced in Seychelles, and contains work made by established artists as well as younger emerging talents. There was no exhibition theme; rather artists were asked to bring work that demonstrated their creative positions at this time – work that is perhaps both typical in terms of style and concept, but that takes a new direction and consequently occupies a fresh place in the artist's portfolio.

Shelley Morden refers to the work of Praslinoise artist Sheila Markham, who, though best known for her lyrical canvases which fuse impression and form, is exhibiting a series of innovative abstract collages which are quite different to anything she has created in the past, leading Shelley Morden to comment; "These are truly stunning works created by a mature artist at the peak of her creative powers. Sheila has moved away from her signature palette and has utilised a new and broader spectrum as well as radically different and exciting compositional formats."

'The Hot One Hundred' is a signpost show for this new gallery, which is overseen by the Seychelles Cultural Foundation (SCF) and supported by Mrs. Aarti Kerai (the Foundation's patron), the European Cultural Centre, Constance Group and Vijay Construction Seychelles.

Martin Kennedy, SCF Chairperson, described the main focus for the Foundation; "We intend to prioritise educational activities within and outside the gallery. It's very important to provide access to young people to our shows and encourage them to experience contemporary art exhibitions and inform their own creativity thereby. The SCF aims to work with schools and SIAD to develop a quality education programme which will help young people to recognise the potential art has in terms of enriching their lives and enhancing their understanding of themselves and the world."

In future the gallery intends to exhibit local and international art, with approximately 25% of the exhibition calendar being dedicated to international artists. The support and advice of The European Cultural centre will be invaluable to this strand of the gallery's work. The SCF is fortunate to have ECC-Worldwide President Rene Rietmeyer and Board member Nina Comini on its own administrative Board.

All artists living and working in Seychelles are particularly encouraged to visit the new gallery, enjoy the exhibition and talk to Shelley Morden about the possibility of exhibiting their works there in the future.

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