

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 1 September 09
For immediate release



Pork Knocker Dreams

Recent work by Donald Locke

Curated by Indra Khanna and produced in partnership with New Art Exchange

Dates: Saturday 26 September - Saturday 19 December 2009

Opening Times: Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm and Saturday 10am - 5pm

Admission: Free

Donald Locke's influence has been acknowledged in seminal exhibitions such as 'Back to Black' and 'The Other Story', and now is an opportunity for his work to be presented to a wider and younger public. With this, *his first solo show in the UK since the 1970's*, we loudly reassert his place in British Art.

Pork Knockers are the gold prospectors of Guyana, intrepid individuals who, like the cowboys of the Wild West, are part of the national identity and of whom many tales are told. Searching the jungle that is the site of the mythical El Dorado, Locke's own father earned the nick-name 'Dunnamite Dan' for his prospecting exploits, rapidly fashioning a new canoe in the bush when the one carrying him and his companions was smashed in the rapids.

Locke is an artist whose work has explored both Modernism and folk art, and who has intimate knowledge of Western culture, and that of the Caribbean and the southern states of America. A contemporary of artists such as Frank Bowling and Aubrey Williams, he was one of a generation of 'scholarship artists' who travelled to Britain to study in the 1950's. Returning home to Guyana in the year of its independence, he used Modernism allied with traditional arts to help mould a New International style. In 1971 he represented Guyana at The 12th Sao Paulo Biennial.

He moved permanently to the US after receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1979, and has had major solo shows at Tucson Museum of Art, The Aljira Center for Contemporary Arts and Skoto Gallery, both in New York and The City Gallery, Atlanta amongst others. Now in his 70's, Locke is a vigorous artist who continues to push his practise forward, and 'Pork-Knocker Dreams' concentrates on work made during the last 10 years.

The exhibition includes approximately 50 sculptures and paintings, many utilising natural or printed found objects, and is accompanied by a full programme of talks, workshops and live music events, including an audience with Donald Locke, hosted by David A Bailey.

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The exhibition is on at New Art Exchange, Nottingham from 26 September to 19 December 2009. Open Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm and Saturday 10am - 5pm, admission is free.

- Ends -

For further PRESS information please contact: Raam Tarat, *Marketing and Communication Manager - Freelance*, T: 0115 924 8630, M: 07944271979, E: raam.tarat@thenewartexchange.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

Pork Knocker Dreams

- Pork Knocker Dreams, Recent work by Donald Locke has been curated by Indra Khanna, and produced in partnership with New Art Exchange
- The exhibition will be running from Saturday 26 September - Saturday 19 December 2009
- Admission to the exhibition is FREE
- Born in Guyana, Locke is currently resident in the USA. This is Locke's first exhibition in the UK in over 30 years
- After its tenure at New Art Exchange, Pork Knocker Dreams will exhibit at Wolverhampton Art Gallery in 2010
- For more information on the exhibition visit the NAE website: www.thenewartexchange.org.uk

Education

There will be a full education and events programme accompanying the exhibition. Some of the programme is listed below, for full details please contact education@thenewartexchange.org.uk or check the New Art Exchange Website for up to date information.

Events

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| • Friday 25 September | Private View Event |
| • Saturday 26 September | David A Bailey in conversation with Donald Locke - Artist Talk |
| • Saturday 24 October | Gallery Tour with Hew Locke |
| • Mon 2 - Wed 4 November | Madge Spencer - Pottery Workshops |
| • Friday 13 November | Keith Waithe workshop |
| • Friday 13 November | Keith Waithe Performance with <i>Jo Jo Yates</i> (Ghanaian Cora and singer) and <i>Sandra Agard</i> (storyteller) |
| • Thursday 10 December | Sprinkling of Demerera Soulful Rock Acoustic set from Midlands-based Guyanese artist <i>Cassava</i> |

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New Art Exchange

- **New Art Exchange was awarded £5million** of funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Radford and Hyson Green New Deal for Communities, and European Regional Development Funding, and took 18 months to build. The organisation was a big winner in Arts Council England's the January 2008 review of national arts funding gaining a 58% increase in its annual funding grant. The award was made in recognition of the organisation's vital role in supporting visual and performing arts.
- **The building designed by architects Hawkins\ Brown** boasts 5 -storey building provides 1360 sqm space dedicated to visual arts with; galleries, workshop/performance/rehearsal space, artists in residence facilities, and a cafe. Distinguished from the red clay buildings of the neighbourhood by its black brick façade and arrangement of frameless windows ranging in size (from 0.16 sqm to 4.84sqm), offers incidental and unexpected views into and out of the building.
- **Mission:** *The New Art Exchange ambition is to become a national centre of excellence promoting contemporary arts development within the cultural and creative industries, to deliver an innovative and exciting programme of activity to promote, support and advocate contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts and new media. To be a cultural centre led by African, African Caribbean and South Asian arts practice. To serve an international community from roots firmly embedded in the local area.*