

It was a special honor to receive a crown from the Karao Group. The honor was bestowed at the Dr. Desrey Caesar-Fox Memorial Lecture.

Dr. Vibert Cambridge receiving crown from Mr. Ambrose, Karao Group. Photograph by Dr. Patricia Cambridge



Vibert Cambridge acknowledging crown from Mr. Ambrose, Karao Group. Photograph by Dr. Patricia Cambridge



Hahom! - thank you!

THEY CAME AND INSPIRED

By Dr. Vibert Cambridge, A.A.



In response to our 2017 “Call for Participation,” Texas-based Guyanese Abby Matthias sent a proposal for the Karao Group from Karaudanau. The group, with members ranging in age between 6 and 60, was founded in 2005 with the aim of raising awareness about Wapishana heritage and the need to preserve the land, river, and forests. We agreed wholeheartedly. What happened was a fascinating story of cooperation among many people and agencies and in Guyana and the United States.

A majority of the group needed travel documents. Many needed birth certificates. Most required passports and all required visas to enter the United States. In Georgetown, Anna Iles, volunteered as our liaison with Guyana's Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MOIPA). MOIPA facilitated all the needed arrangements with the Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The group's travel to the USA was made possible with generous support from Capt. Jerry Gouveia and Dynamic Airlines. The eleven members arrived in New York on August 28, 2017 for a 10 -day stay.

During their visit, the group participated in every event held during the 2017 Folk Festival season—the Awards Ceremony, the Dr. Desrey Caesar-Fox Memorial Lecture, Kwe Kwe Night, Symposium and Literary Hang, and Family Fun Day. In addition, the Native American community in New York hosted a special welcome for their "cousins from Guyana" at the American Indian Community House in Manhattan, NY. Arrangements were also made for the Karao Group to attend the annual Shinnecock Pow Wow in the Hamptons. The Guyanese community showed their appreciation in several ways, including serving as host families and seeking photo opportunities.

We, the members of GCA wish to express our special thanks to Ms. Laurinda Clementson, our founding-president Malcolm Hall, and his brother Terry Hall for all they did to make the group's visit a satisfying one. We also extend our thanks for the school supplies that were donated by the community for the children of Karaudanau.

These photographs tell the story of Karao Group—outstanding ambassadors from Guyana—who came and inspired us. As "Slingshot" Drepaul would say, "Nuff hugs!"



Arrival, JFK Airport
Photograph by Dr. Rose October-Edun



Meet and Greet held by United Confederation of Taino People at AICH



GCA Awards Ceremony
Photograph by Dr. Vibert Cambridge



The Celebrity Kids
Photograph by Dr. Vibert Cambridge



At the Shinnecock Pow Wow
Photograph by Malcolm Hall



Meet and Greet AICH
Photograph by Malcolm Hall



First Subway Ride, in NY
Photograph by Malcolm Hall



Hang fun at Brooklyn Zoo
Photograph by Abby Mathias



Performance with Sangre Taino Group, Family Day
Photograph by Dr. Vibert Cambridge



Mr. Ambrose and Beatrice delivering school supplies donated
Photograph by Beatrice Ambrose

ART GALLERY

By Dr. Vibert C. Cambridge, A.A.

THE GEORGE
SIMON EXHIBITION

George Simon. "The spiritual connection between man and nature # 2." Oil on canvas. 6ftx4ft.
Photograph provided by George Simon.

Art continues to have a special place in the Guyanese experience. Across the 20th century, Guyanese artists demonstrated self-confidence, skill, and innovation. This boldness continues at home and in the diaspora.

We created our online Art Gallery as a space to introduce Guyanese artists to digital Guyana. We visualize a series of exhibitions featuring works by Guyanese and non-Guyanese artists who have worked in Guyana. We look forward to collaborating with artists, independent curators, and international institutions such as Guyana's National Art Gallery, E. R. Burrowes School of Art, and the Division of Creative Arts at the University of Guyana in the curation of these exhibitions.

For this exhibition, we are sharing 14 paintings by George Simon that were exhibited in the 2017 Indigenous Heritage Month Art Exhibition

held in September at the National Art Gallery, Castellani House, Georgetown, Guyana.

These 14 paintings showcase his skills as a painter and his preference for oil on canvas and paper to celebrate the color and textures of Amazonia. This collection reaffirms his ongoing commitment of "drawing attention to the indigenous people and how they have lived with the environment in mind." For George Simon, "the environment is not just bland, but is full of life and has deep meaning."

You are invited to visit our Art Gallery and an exhibition of George Simon's work.

<http://guyfolkfest.org/george-simon/>



INTRODUCING

GEORGE
SIMON A.A.

George Simon is the recipient of GCA's 2017 Lifetime Award in recognition of his substantial contributions to Guyanese art and archeology. He received Guyana's Golden Arrow of Achievement in 1988 and the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Award of Excellence in 2012.

He was born in Pukari Village (formerly St. Cuthbert's Mission) in 1947. When he was 12, he and his adoptive father moved to Essex, England. In 1978, he graduated from the University of Portsmouth with an honors degree in art. He returned to Guyana in the same year and since then has been a powerful catalytic force in Guyanese art.

George Simon was a teacher at the E. R. Burrowes School of Art and the University of

Guyana. During the early 1980s, he made mass games art uniquely Guyanese. He led a team of Guyanese artists who earned the admiration of the Koreans who were advising the Government of Guyana on mass games. But George Simon's body of work goes beyond mass games art. His work introduces us to the "cosmos of the Lokono," and helps us to decode our timehri inheritance.

In 2009, George Simon, along with the late Neil Whitehead and Michael Heckenberger, started excavations of terra preta mounds in the Berbice intermediate savannahs. Radiocarbon testing of ceramic and organic materials from four sites indicate human settlement of more than 3,000 ago.

George Simon's work has graced important national buildings such as the National Museum and the Umana Yana. As a Guyanese of Lokono (Arawak) heritage, he has used his canvas to share the rich heritage of Guyana's indigenous people—their cosmology, color palate, and aspirations. In so doing, he has contributed to national integration.

George Simon is a leader who encourages and promotes young and emerging indigenous artists. His founding of the Lokono Arts Group and organizing the "Moving Circle" art exhibitions are examples of this work. Since 1995, the Moving Circle art exhibition has been the principal event to showcase the art of indigenous artists.

THE 9TH CARIBBEAN SUMMER HERITAGE WORKSHOP SERIES

THE ART OF OUR SEASON

By Dr. Vibert C. Cambridge, A.A.



STAGE SET

A VILLAGE SCENE IN THE INTERIOR OF GUYANA:

Designed for closing ceremony of the GCA Summer Heritage Workshop Series.

Background scenery painted by Colin Warde, formerly of the Burrowes School of Arts, Stage set by Clive Prowell, assisted by "Children of 2017."

The invitation to the Closing Ceremony of GCA's 9th annual Summer Heritage Workshop Series featured art work created by the "Children of 2017."



You are Invited
GCA THE 9TH ANNUAL
**Summer Heritage
Workshop Series**
"Arts in the Community"

CLOSING CEREMONY

Thursday, August 10, 2017

from one o'clock promptly

St. Stephen's Church Auditorium
2806 Newkirk Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226

"Celebrating Our Indigenous Heritage"

There will be an exhibition of the Children's Work
and a celebratory reception

Your Hosts:

GCA SWS Children of 2017

With the Support of

NY Council Member Matthieu Eugene, NY Council Member Jumaane Williams, NY Council Member Alan Maisel
Metroplus Health Plan, Fly Jamaica Airways,
Materials for the Arts, Mr. Edward Isaacs - Crayola Company,
New York Tutorial Support Group, Dr. Lear Matthews, Ms Gail Nunes,
Ms Pat Jordon-Langford - Guyana Tri-State Alliance,
Caribbean American Social Workers, Mr. Charles Liverpool,
Mrs. Joyce Y. Chase, Mr. Leroy Beresford, Mrs. Lynette Marshall,
Mrs. Negla Parris, Mr. Courtney Parris, Mr. & Mrs. George Rowe,
The Howell Family, Pastor Crews & Members of St. Stephen's Church.

Supported by Volunteers from the Community

Mrs. Claudette Howell (SWS Nurse), Mrs. Deborah Assanah, Mr. Hilton Hemerding,
Mr. Clive Prowell, Mr. Clinton Duncan, Mr. Ryan Berkeley, Mrs. Janice Dougall,
Professor Keith Proctor, Mrs. Penny Bascom, Mr. Charles Liverpool,
Mr. Winston Hoppie, Ms. Donna Walcott, Mr. Reuben Freeman, Mr. Roy Brummell
Dr. Juliet Emanuel & Mr. Edgar Henry - SWS Consultants, GCA Board of Directors
Mr. Carlyle Harry - SWS Director
Interns
Ms. Faith Parris - Chief Intern,
Yves Cazeau - Assistant to the Chief Intern



**Council on
the Arts**



EVERYTHING MATTERS





*Chang W. Lee's photograph illustrated an article in **The New York Times** (August 11, 2017) about the negative impact of proposed reductions in legal immigration on family reunification among immigrant families in the United States. These potential restrictions will have significant implications for the Guyanese diaspora in New York.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/11/nyregion/in-little-guyana-proposed-cuts-to-family-immigration-weigh-heavily.html?smid=fb-share>

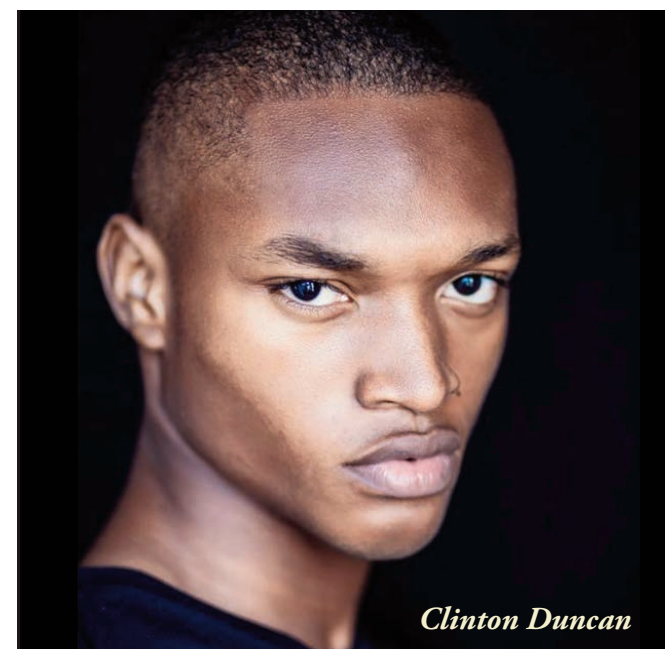
Lee's photograph from the closing session of the 9th season of Guyana Cultural Association of New York, Inc. (GCA)'s Caribbean Heritage Summer Workshop presents a moment in the performance of Matapee Dance from the dance module of the series. The photograph encourages us to look at the costumes—the aprons and the colorful headdresses. It also introduces a set. The photograph speaks to the place of art in our season.

The closing session represented the weaving together of the outcomes from the four modules of the workshop series—music, art and craft, dance, and drama. The music; the set, the costume, the matapee dance, the dramatic piece *Creation Stories*, along with the jewelry created in the arts and crafts module, were about a team of Guyanese designers working with the community to create a space where young Caribbean children could learn about our indigenous heritage and make and share art inspired by that heritage.

The three designers were GCA's Youth Director Clive Powell, and two 2017 interns-- Ryan Berkley, and Clinton Duncan. All three designers brought with them extensive experience in Guyana. Clive Powell, who specializes in dance and costume design, was the founder of the *Classique Dance Company*. He has received several awards among them, the *Best Dance Production/Dance Company* at the 2012 West Indian Music Award Ceremony. Clinton Duncan is a 2017 graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Law from the University of Guyana. Duncan is actively engaged in performing arts as a playwright, costume designer, and stage manager. Ryan Berkley is graduate of Guyana's E. R. Burrowes School of Art, specializing in textile design and fashion design. Berkley was Guyana's *Designer of the Year 2011*. His collections have been shown in Antigua, Trinidad, French Guiana, and Suriname.



Clive Powell



Clinton Duncan



Ryan Burkeley



What was created in these workshops was showcased throughout the Folk Festival season. The matapee dance was presented at Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, August 2017. The set created an impressive backdrop for the inaugural Dr. Desrey Caesar-Fox Memorial Lecture (Thursday, August 31), Kwe-Kwe Night (Friday, September 1), and the Symposium and Literary Hang (Saturday, September 2). Elements of the set were present on the main stage at Family Fun Day on Sunday, September 3, 2017.

The 9th Caribbean Heritage Workshops were presented by the Guyana Arts and Cultural Center (GA&CC) through its Arts in the Community program. Claire Goring, GCA's cultural director, is the executive director of GA&CC. Each year, Claire Goring brings a distinctive visual flavor to the Folk Festival season. This year, she integrated George Simon's "Spiritual connection between man and nature # 2" and its color palette to create the season's impressive graphic art and complementary activities.

George Simon.
**“Spiritual connection
 between man and
 nature # 2”**

(oil on canvas, 2017).

Graphic Arts

George's color palette and visualization informed our visual identity in 2017. This is evident in Claire Goring's graphic art for our social media announcements, invitations, and printed hand cards.

718 209 5207

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GuyanaCulturalAssociation1/>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.guyfolkfest.org

GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL 2017

**“Celebrating Our
 Indigenous Heritage”**

KWE KWE NITE

FRI. SEPT. 1, 2017: 8.00 P.M.

ST. STEPHEN'S AUDITORIUM

2806 Newkirk Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11226

\$20. ENTRANCE

MORE AT THE DOOR FOR DRINKS

FAMILY FUN DAY

SUN. SEPT. 3, 2017

OLD BOYS HS GROUND

736 RUTLAND RD., BROOKLYN 11203

ADULTS \$10. SENIORS & KIDS FREE

GATES OPEN AT NOON

This activity is not sponsored or endorsed by the New York City

Department of Education or the City of New York

FIRST EVER GUYANA / USA

Guyanese Indigenous Peoples & Native Americans

Pow Wow

STARTS AT 3.00 P.M.

STAGE SHOW - 4.30 P.M.

• Ninja Band • Adrian Dutchin

• Fanoko Singers • T&T Roxborough Cultural Group

• GCA Kwe Kwe Ensemble • Comedian Chow Pow

• Shelly G • Other exciting presentations

**DR. DESREY CAESAR-FOX
 MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**THURSDAY. AUG. 31, 2017:
 7.00,p.m.**

Special Native American Indian Welcome from 6.00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Walter Edwards

**SYMPOSIUM & LITERARY HANG
 SAT.URDAY SEPT. 2, 2017**

9.00 A.M. - 8.30 P.M.

ENUE FOR BOTH EVENTS

GUYANA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

2806 NEWKIRK AVE. BROOKLYN, NY 11226

DONATION: \$20.00 FOR BOTH DAYS

GATES OPEN AT NOON CHILDREN'S VILLAGE STARTS AT 1.00 P.M. POW WOW STARTS AT 3.00 P.M.

GATES CLOSE AT 6.00 P.M.

WE ARE CONNECTED

By Ronald H. Lammy



OUR 2017 AWARDEES EXEMPLIFY WHAT IS BEST ABOUT BEING GUYANESE



This is an exceptional year for the GCA Awards. The honorees as individuals, and as a collective, have made an impressive impact in their respective fields with definitive features of being Guyanese. This article resource does not allow me to describe them all. They are all representative of excellent work, not talk. In some cases, their accomplishments are almost incomparable elements of our Guyanese reality.

Let us consider recipients who had definitive roles in confirming our historical presence and how our ancestors communicated amongst themselves. The seminal work and accomplishments that define us come under classifications of archeology, visual artistry, and linguistics. Journalism and authorship have described the contemporary environment in which our indigenous folk live today.

On-going research into the early habitations and the preservation of the explorations and their revelations are continuous. The collaborative work provides a bridge from colonial ignorance and falsehood to scientific confirmation of the truthfulness of our presence through our ancestors.

Our indigenous heritage has revealed pronounced traits of creativity, distinctiveness, and excellence. These characteristics have been displayed in the activities and successes of Awardees in the fields of education, medical care, community service and as cultural enablers. We see foundational, connecting human activity that enriches Guyanese lives.

The increasing attention we are paying to our indigenous heritage, and claiming it, is creating a greater awareness of our place in a worldwide experience. The elements of commonness with our Guyanese conditions could, should, encourage greater effort to remove the fragmentations in our homeland. We are not alone and we are connected.

As we consider the present and look to the future we can be quite hopeful with the indicators from our 2017 Youth Awardees. They demonstrate superior scholastic achievements; emerging performing and literary talent; youth leadership; and cultural community service.

All together our 2017 Awardees exemplify what is best about being Guyanese.



Lifetime Achievement Honoree George Simon receiving his award and Cacique Crown from the Hon. Vice President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, Sydney Allcock in Guyana