

# Connexions in Art and Culture

**Figurative expressionist Karl Doyle is no stranger to creative endeavour, as is evidenced during his time at Queen's Royal College (where he studied art and first exhibited in 2001) and at the University of the West Indies (where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Visual Arts in 2006).**

Long before exhibiting his art and winning accolades for his work, he has been participating in art shows and staging events under his company Blue Culture Arts Organization Co Ltd from 2008, including Jazz Quarters in 2012, a live music series which featured local jazz artistes and gave newcomers opportunities to network and learn from their mentors.

In a similar vein, Doyle has gathered a diverse collective of artists for a special group exhibit called Connexions: this also falls under Blue Culture and will run from Wednesday 22nd March to Saturday 1st April at the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago's gallery in Federation Park.

It's an eclectic grouping featuring the talents of Antonio Figuero, R Gerard Fulchan, Damian Moore, Enaldo Bynoe, Ihsan Atiba, Halcian Pierre, Vanessa Nesbitt, Ysharda Clement and Gail Pantin, showcasing new works for the viewing public.

The reasoning for this exhibit and its title are multi-fold; as Doyle explained, he chose the theme and artists carefully and deliberately, hoping to send a message of community.

"This grouping isn't about making up numbers; it's to foster and build relationships," said Doyle.

"Each of us knows each other within our many art circles and we fall with-



**Artist Karl Doyle, making Connexions happen** PHOTOS: KARL DOYLE

in various age groups of 20s, 30s and 40 and over, forming our own unique connection between established and emerging art practitioners, as it were. Connexions is all about community. What we're seeking to do with this exhibit is show how we affect each other physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially... etc. It's a genuine question we are trying to answer through our various art genres and interpretations. It's not about competition or 'crying down' each other. This space is for us to share ourselves with the public and to engage society with our concerns, observations and desires."

Approximately 50-plus pieces from this grouping of fine artists, realists, neo pop artists, figurative and abstract expressionists will have their place and space. To highlight the theme, Doyle asked each to do a signature piece incorporating Connexions within the title and subject matter, further demonstrating some form of connectivity. Though it's not the first art show of its kind, it is, however, a much-needed venture to help encourage newcomers and incite rapport instead of creating in isolation. Indeed, if we were to take the grouping at face value, their art is as much an observation as it is a deeper reflection of life and guests will definitely embark on a journey as they experience each genre.

"This is not about dwelling in the past or getting paranoid over what-ifs as much as it deals with connecting with each other beyond the superficial, and jumping into the multi-layered dimensions of our respective relationships and thoughts," Doyle added. "We need to pause and consider the many ways we affect one another. What is my connection to you, him or her, and how do we show that through our art? If we don't know where we come from, we can't know where we are going. This is our answer. This is who we are. These are our Connexions."

**Connexions opens on Wednesday 22nd March from 7pm to 9pm at the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago, corner of Jamaica Boulevard and St Vincent Avenue, Federation Park, and will run until April 1st, 2017.**

**Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays from 10am to 5pm. The Gallery is closed on Sundays.**



**CONNEXIONS by Karl Doyle—The Golden Rule**

**Blue Culture began as a Caribbean-Jazz band led by Karl Doyle, formed in December 2002; this transitioned into an on-line group for young Trinbagonian creatives in 2004.**

**From 2008 it developed into Blue Culture Arts Organization Co. Ltd, an Arts & Entertainment company, established with the main aim of showcasing Trinbagonian talent and the promotion of indigenous art forms and expressions within Trinidad and Tobago.**