

B/N

Reynolds, Mallica - (Kapo)

THE DAILY GLEANER, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1982



From left, Director of Tourism John Gentles, Artist Federick Brown and wife, chat with Kapo. — JTB Photo/O'Brien

# Kapo's works a hit in

A host of Jamaican government officials recently paid tribute to Kapo, the foremost Jamaican primitive artist, at a reception cele-

bration in his honour in New York. The Hon. E. Anthony Abrahams, Minister of Tourism and Information; Mr. John Gen-

tles, Director of Tourism; and Consul General, Lorrel Bruce, joined with others from the worlds of art and travel at the loft of artist, Frederick J. Brown, 120 Wooster Street in Soho.

The spacious Soho loft with mirrored walls and high ceilings draped with flowing white banners formed a wonderful backdrop for Kapo's colourful depictions of Jamaica's lush vegetation and fascinating people. During the celebration, Kapo, in white turban and gold robes and cross, sat in a place of honour on a raised dais where he could receive visitors and dignitaries.

The majority of the 36 paintings came from the artist's collection, and a selected few were for sale. Others were on loan from the private collections of Ruth and Jack Wilder, New York; Marcella Martinez, New York and Kingston; and Minister Abrahams.

In exchange for Kapo's visit, Frederick J. Brown, a prominent Afro-American artist one of his paintings hangs in the White House collection of President and Nancy Reagan travelled to Jamaica the following week to present a painting to John Gentles, Director of Tourism. This cultural exchange will provide an opportunity to explore similarities and differences between the American and Caribbean artistic development stemming from an African language.

Kapo extended his research to these similarities and differences in

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a visit to the new Rockefeller wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on Friday, May 21, 1982. He was given a special tour of outstanding Black American and African art by the Metropolitan's Public Relations Director, Joan Sandler, including Frederick Brown's "Genesis", which is one of the few pieces by a Black American artist to hang in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

This cultural exchange is sponsored by the Jamaica Tourist Board, Air Jamaica, and the Rose Hall Intercontinental Hotel in Montego Bay.

J.T.B.

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