

THE GEORGE WILLIAM GORDON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN THE VISUAL ARTS

CITATION

**ALBERT HUIE**

Born in Falmouth, Jamaica, on New Year's Eve 1920, Albert Huie has been painting for over half a century. He began exhibiting his work at the age of 18, with his first one-man show when he was only 23. His gifts were recognised early and he has been receiving honours and awards from 1938; honours which include the Commander of <sup>the Order of</sup> Distinction and the Gold Musgrave Medal.

Of Huie it can truly be said that he revealed to Jamaicans for the first time the nobility of their natural heritage, the beauty both of their people and of their land.

For Albert Huie is, within the limits set by himself and intensively defined and redefined over the years, a Jamaican master in the only sense that this can be understood. This is that, through a body of work unequivocally stamped with a personality recognisably his, may be perceived an equally unmistakable interpretation of our country's life and character.

This fusion of artist and environment is what is meant by the term "vision" when employed by critics. Huie has given us many memorable images of Jamaicans. But it is in his landscapes that his genius has notably flowered.

And if the beneficiary in art only truly benefits by giving again, with interest,

that from which benefit originally came, then Albert Huie has given back with abundance.

In his landscapes, using his particular Jamaican Heritage of light, Albert Huie has created paintings that can take their place among the best of the International School of Landscape Art which had its genesis in the 19th and early 20th century Impressionists.

But although Huie learnt from French Impressionism techniques to render light, his style is wholly his own. For a style, to have integrity, cannot be adopted, but must be the utterance of the stylist's own true self, and of a necessity, all its own. It is the sum and refinement of the artist's encounter with the material world.

Albert Huie's style is the substance of his encounter with his beloved land - Jamaica. His canvasses resonate with the blues and greens of a tropical world, a world which, but for his special agency, we might not have come to know: a world of light-filled masses, of a taunting sensuousness and infinite plasticity; a world of electric stillness that summons from artist and audience alike renewed awareness of a national soul and new definitions from which to understand a true nationalism.

For creating a Jamaican genre of landscape painting, for giving us art of uncompromising technical excellence imbued with a passionate and unique Jamaican sensibility, for creating for us a reference point of the imagination through which to experience our world, The Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Society is proud to present the George William Gordon Award for Excellence in the Visual Arts to Albert Huie, master painter.