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HIN Artists for Home Albert



HUIE EXHIBITION OPENED: The Prime Minister, the Hon. Michael Manley as he

declared open the exhibition of paintings by painter Albert Huie at the Bolivar

Gallery Friday evening. Flanking him are the painter (right) and Mr. Hugh Dumphy.

Huie hailed as 'superb craftsman' at show opening

PRIME MINISTER, the Hon. Michael Manley declared open an exhibition of paintings by Albert Huie on Friday evening at the Bolivar Gallery, hailing the famous Jamaican artist as one who had achieved greatness in his field.

Mounted to commemorate the announcement of the award of the Order of Distinction on Huie, the exhibition is a collection of works that present a picture of the artist's development over the years.

Mr. Manley, a self-proclaimed Huie admirer, recalled the "absolute pleasure" he felt when, years ago, he viewed his first Huie painting. "One is among greatness when attending an exhibition by Albert Huie," he observed.

The Prime Minister placed the artist on par with other great Jamaicans like Louise Bennett who had earned themselves a place in contemporary Jamaican life and spoke of Huie's "passionate pre-occupation with paint."

"He is indeed a superb craftsman who has achieved greatness. His achievement is difficult to surpass," Mr. Manley said.

Huie, he said, had brought "the magic of the landscape, indeed the whole Jamaican scene to Jamaicans' view."

Mr. Manley went on to hail the

artist — the first in his field to receive the national honour — for his unusual tendency "to see the good in things."

"He illuminates the areas of optimism in the Jamaican scene. He is one who sees dignity in the bad things while others are only pre-occupied with painting the slums and the bad things in the society."

ALBERT HUIE, one of the deans of the Jamaica art scene has had over 30 years of experience as a painter, and the conferring of this award on him crowned a distinguished career that has endeared him to many Jamaican art lovers and has made his name a highly respected one here and abroad.

The present exhibition which consists of 40 oil paintings will be on display until November 3.

It is one of the few one-man exhibitions Huie has staged recently in his long career. "I don't really like them," he once told an interviewer. "They are nerve-wracking".

Huie has been both a painter and teacher. He was one of those at the beginning of the Jamaica School of Art, where he has taught and has served at Excelsior, Wolmer's and Clarendon College.

He has used his artistic talent in other fields too. For many years Huie Christmas cards were a regular feature.

Born in Falmouth in 1920, he began painting professionally in 1937 and was with the Original Jamaica Painters

Group led by Mrs. Edna Manley at the Institute of Jamaica in the late 30s and early 40s.

After studying at the Ontario College of Art in Canada and the Camberwell School of Art in London, he was presented with an International Award for painting at the Spanish Bi-Annual Exhibition in Havana in 1954.

In 1968 he was awarded the Jamaica Certificate and Badge of Honour in the Queen's Birthday honours list.

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