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It gives me great pleasure to welcome Jackie Hinkson to London at this exhibition at the Mall Galleries. We consider him to be a true ambassador of Caribbean art. He is a leading artist of his generation, an innate talent born out of the influences of the traditional and contemporary worlds of art. His work reflects the multi-cultural heritage of the country of his birth - Trinidad and Tobago.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to BP Amoco and BWIA International Airways for their support of this exhibition despite the many demands on their generosity and the scarcity of commercial funding of art.

I look forward to the day when I will be able to say to my grandchildren 'this is a genuine Hinkson' and I will proudly declare that I opened his first exhibition in London!

We wish Jackie Hinkson every success with this exhibition and for his future in the new Millenium. May he continue to bring acclaim to the artistic talent of Trinidad and Tobago.

Sheelagh M. de Osuna

High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Donald Hinkson's watercolours
Gail Levin and John Van Sickle

Gail Levin, Professor of Art History and American Studies, and John Van Sickle, Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature, teach in the City University of New York.

They first admired paintings by Donald Hinkson in the exhibition *Island Light: Watercolor and Oil Paintings by Derek Walcott and Donald Hinkson* at the State University of New York, Albany, in 1998.

Derek Walcott, the 1992 Nobel Laureate in literature, has written of his friend and fellow watercolorist Donald Hinkson: 'I can pay Hinkson no deeper compliment than to summon the same admiration and technical astonishment for him as I do for Winslow Homer.' It is the essence of Homer's later style, with bold strokes and masses of shadow and light, that we find in Hinkson's watercolors of Trinidad. Hinkson's bravura technique at times even recalls the confident application of pigment that distinguishes the watercolors of John Singer Sargent. Hinkson's *Coconut Estate* demonstrates the ease of execution that marks a master of this demanding medium, no longer fearing the will of the paint on the wet paper and working with spontaneity of technique.

Hinkson appears to paint directly from nature, *en plein air*. Looking at his *Guaya Wind*, we note how he captures the force that bends the palm trees. Much like the French Impressionists, whose work he first discovered in art books in the local libraries in Trinidad, Hinkson has rendered not only the physical landscape, but also the changing weather and light. While the clouds in *Mayaro Expanse* suggest an approaching storm, the bold tones and silhouettes in *Mt. Irvine Sunset* recall the poetic visions of Claude Monet.

Hinkson's favorite artists range from Homer to Piero della Francesca, Goya, Chardin, Manet, Matisse, and Hopper. Hinkson's rendering of the building in *Black Rock Moravian* recalls watercolors Hopper painted in the 1930s on Cape Cod. Like Hopper, Hinkson animates architectural form through the skillful rendering of contrasts in light and shadow. He also evokes the frequently solitary moods of Hopper in *Kilgwyn Solitude*, his painting of a lone boat on the beach. At other times, Hinkson veers in directions that Hopper would never take, choosing to depict still lifes such as *Rock Fish* or bustling crowds on the beach as in *After the Seine*, or working in a palette with hot colors worthy of the Fauves, as in *Goodwood Parlor*. Both the bright palette and the composition of *The Sea Outside*, with its sunny marine view observed from an interior, pay homage to Matisse, summoning visual memories of Collioure, the colorful seaside village in the south of France, where Matisse painted with some of his fellow Fauves.

Hinkson's lively paintings of Trinidad's vernacular architecture, seascapes, and landscapes inject new life into a time-honored technique in a venerable medium. Hinkson gives his viewers a direct and powerful vision of what he observes. His confident painterly gifts capture and translate island sightings into vision for a wider world.



Coconut Estate 1999
Watercolour
20 x 26 inches



Boatman's Shed 1999
Watercolour
13 x 20 inches



Above
The Blue House 1999
Watercolour
13 x 20 inches

Right
Toco Shop 1999 (detail)
Watercolour
20 x 26 inches





Guaya Wind 1999
Watercolour
13 x 20 inches



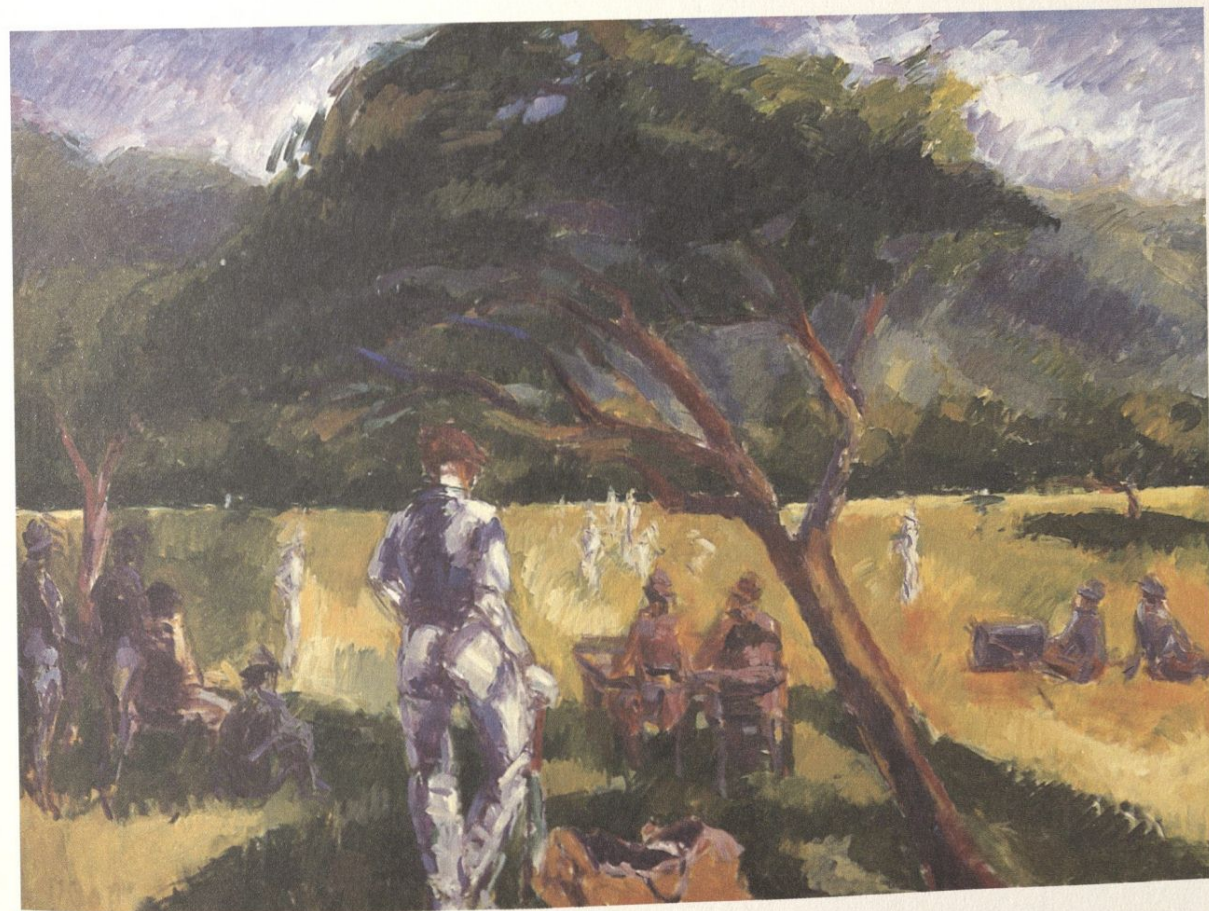
The Sea Outside 1998
Watercolour
17 x 13 inches



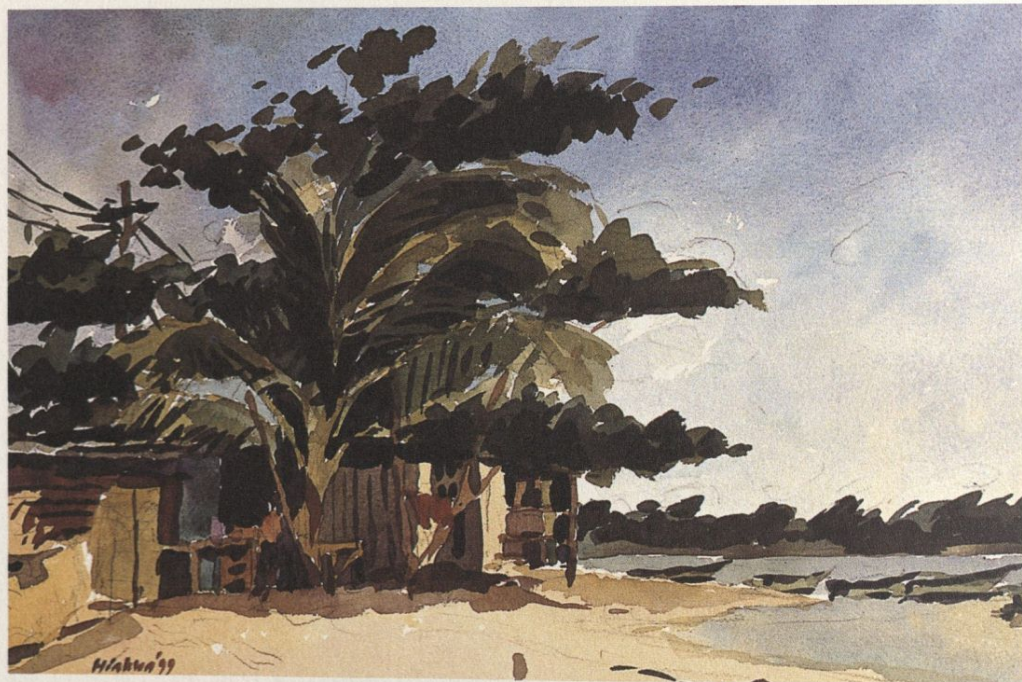
Mayaro Pirogues 1999
Watercolour
20 x 28 inches



Canefield 1999
Watercolour
12 x 20 inches



Batsman 1999
Oil
59 x 84 inches



Beach at Swallows 1999
Watercolour
13 x 20 inches



After the Seine 1999
Watercolour
26 x 41 inches

Donald 'Jackie' Hinkson

1942 Born Port of Spain, Trinidad
1963-64 Académie Julien, Paris, France
1965-70 University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

Solo exhibitions

1974 Bynoe's Gallery, Port of Spain
1977 Final Touch Gallery, Trinidad
1978 National Cultural Council, Trinidad
1979 Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
Trinidad Tesoro Club, Palo Seco, Trinidad
1980 Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
1982 Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
1984 Queen's Royal College Hall, Trinidad
1985 Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
National Museum, Trinidad
1986 Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
Yellow Poui Gallery, Grenada
1987 Queen's Park Gallery, Barbados
Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
1988 Gallery 1234, Trinidad
Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
1989 Mount Irvine Bay Hotel, Tobago
1990 Artsibit Gallery, St Lucia
Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
Aquarella Gallery, Dominica
1991 Aquarella Gallery, Trinidad
Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
Lon Circular Mall, Trinidad

1992 Alliance Française, Trinidad
Mount Irvine Bay Hotel, Tobago
1993 Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
Gallery 101, Trinidad
1994 Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
1995 Kariwak Hotel, Tobago
Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad
1996 Harmony Hall Gallery, Antigua
Gallery 101, Trinidad
1997 Kariwak Hotel, Tobago
Art Creators Gallery, Trinidad

Selected joint exhibitions

1982 Kacal's Gallery, Trinidad
1989 Gallerie Honorien, Martinique
1991 Alliance Française, Trinidad
1996 Alliance Française, Trinidad
1998 State University of New York, Albany with Derek Walcott

Mural installations

1989 Piarco International Airport, Trinidad
1992 Trinidad Co-operative Bank, Trinidad
1996 Queen's Park Cricket Club, Trinidad

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Jackie Hinkson
Caribbean Vibrations

Watercolours, oils and drawings