**!BEHOLD! Women’s Work.**

Gallery of Caribbean Art in Speightstown, Barbados
**December 14, 2013 - January 16, 2014**

**“!BEHOLD! Women’s Work”, powerful statements of 12 Caribbean women” opens at the Gallery of Caribbean Art, Speightstown, on December 15th 2013.**

 The exhibition is the brainchild of **Heidi Berger**, whose main body of work is related to the lives of women. She calls herself “*an observer and a witness* “and her methods have an element of divination, as shemanipulates the surface or the under-painting adding collage, paint and texture until a narrative reveals itself, which she then completes with words and images”. For this exhibition she is joined by:

**Alison Chapman- Andrews,**  best known for her iconic landscapes, but currently concerned with the combined textures of paint and collage as part of an ongoing search for a new subject matteras *“each painting, magically, seems to carry within it the germ of the next”*

 **Heather Dawn Scott** whosenostalgic paintings of ‘Ole Time Caribbean Women” are inspired by archival photographs from the time, when plantations dominated West Indian society . Her confident brushstrokes and colouristic flair brings to life the scenes from fading, sepia-coloured images in larger-than-life renditions on canvas.

Nineteenthth century. "looking back" images are also the central focus of **Ann Rudder’s** multi-media work **"Betsy Lemon" - 'Setting Together, Quilting Softly'** two textile panels, that present a visual story about the Barbadian ancestral and craft heritage.

 Rudder, is best known as a heraldic artists with an impressive body of multi -media work to her name. As she frequently combines mysticism with activism, she will not disappoint her many fans with this intriguing and intricate statement.

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Throughout her many facetted career **Joyce Daniel**  has always returned to the theme of “**The Sacred Feminine’** and all aspects of womanhood. This time she exhibits a series of
multi media torsos, inspired by the restricting corsets our mothers and grandmothers donned as a matter of course. These works were previously shown at **JMArts** in **Paris** and at the **NCF e-create Symposium** earlier this year.

**Tracey Williams** works with a subtle layering of acrylic paints to achieve a vibrant surface with many undertones, a method which reflects the very essence of the Barbadian landscape and its almost magical light. She applies this technique to a series of paintings of women, especially created for this exhibition.

**Natalie Atkins-Hinds** blends found objects and random scraps with carefully textured surfaces and meticulous lines in her mixed media collages and assemblages, In the series **“I want a ponytail’** and “**Hair and the Politics of Identity’** she explores the racial bias of a burdensome and stubborn colonial heritage as it pertains to *‘hair’*; still a explosive topic in the lives of many women. Mixed media works is also the choice of **Nakazzi Hutchinson**, a Jamaica based Barbadian artist is well versed both in 2d and 3d media, but is perhaps best known for her iconic female masks.

The Tree Calabash. from which she fashions symbolic and utilitarian objects, is one of **Martina Pilé –Zahles’** favourite materials through which she investigates the myths and legends of ‘Womanhood’ in the many cultures that have influenced Barbadian society.

 Her daughter, **Simbah Pilé,**  feels, that there is a battle for the contemporary female in defining herself, and it is this battle that she attempts to address in her work, as she explores the roles given to female characters via pop culture, narratives, and social norms.

**Corrie Scott works and experiments in different media from purely representational water colours to large abstract pieces in acrylics and mixed media. As a prominent photographer, Scott always has a camera close to hand to capture the elusive moments and sudden insights of daily life.**

Music, especially the heartbeat rhythms of the Caribbean,isthe main **s**ource ofinspiration for **Lilian Sten-Nicholson.**  a painter and printmaker, whose work varies from monochromes to vivid colours, from stark black-on-white statements to the subtle nuances of layered work.

**!BEHOLD!** shows the collective strength of ‘womens work’ in a ‘ line-up’ of women who, added to their roles as artists, have made significant contributions as administrators, writers, teachers, curators and promoters of Caribbean art. The exhibition will be open for viewing at the **Gallery of Caribbean Art, Speightstown**  from December 14th 2013-Jan 16th , 2014.