

Black History Month

A celebration of arts and culture featuring artists of African and Caribbean descent, running throughout October 2011

Portobello Art Gallery • 6 Thorpe Close W10 5XL



An image from Nadia Denton's exhibition India: An African Odyssey

Gallery Opening Times

Monday to Friday: 1pm – 6pm

Saturday & Sunday: 12 noon – 5pm

See inside for details of evening Gallery events during October

The Portobello Art Gallery aims to promote exhibitions and events featuring emerging, established and international artists, with a focus on art of quality and of diversity.

The Gallery will maintain a strong link to our local area and showcase the work of local artists wherever possible.

Join our mailing list for updates on future exhibitions and events:

Email arts@westway.org

Call 020 8962 5743

www.westway.org

Westway Development Trust
Enhancing Local Lives
Registered Charity Number 1123127

WESTWAY
DEVELOPMENT TRUST

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The programme features two photography exhibitions and a number of gallery events including showings of documentary films. All welcome.

EXHIBITION ONE

5th to 14th October 2011

Private View 5th October 7 – 9pm

Nadia Denton

India: An African Odyssey

Nadia was born in Paddington and raised in a Jamaican household. She has travelled extensively and recently wrote *The Black British Filmmaker's Guide to Success*.

Talking about an *India: An African Odyssey*, Nadia says:

"In 2008, I travelled to India for the second time. What struck me was that in contrast to my experiences in Delhi where I was largely recognised as a person of African descent, in West Bengal and Orissa, the lines were blurred. Local people could not understand why I was not responding when they spoke to me in local languages. I was frequently asked which part of India I was from.

Most significantly, with my lens I was allowed a certain level of access that would normally be denied a western traveller. The people I met did not see me as an outsider. I was welcomed into a culture which was not my own but where I could see aspects of my identity. Though I have lived and travelled extensively in West Africa, India remains the only place where I have been surrounded by so many people who share my skin colour. The images in the exhibition are a snapshot of the glimpses I had of my African self in India."

GALLERY EVENTS

Monday 10th October 6-8pm FREE

Nadia Denton talks about her book

'The Black British Filmmaker's Guide to Success: Finance, Market and Distribute Your Film' [portrait: Armet Francis]

www.blackfilmmakersguide.com

Wednesday 12th October 7:30-9:30pm

Film Screening: *Nubian Spirit* (2008, 74 mins)

This beautifully shot documentary unravels the fascinating and often magical legacy of Ancient Sudan.

Director: Louis Buckley Donations

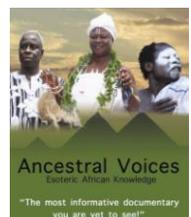
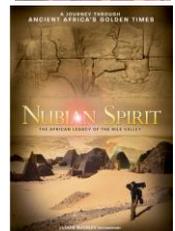
Thursday 13th October 7:30-9:30pm

Film Screening: *Ancestral Voices* (2011, 73 mins)

An educational documentary examining African spiritual practices widely stigmatised as Juju, Obeah or witchcraft.

The film questions why African systems are viewed negatively whereas many more modern religions are not.

Directors: Verona Spence & Dalian Adofu Donations



At PORTOBELLO ART GALLERY

Friday, 14th October

7:30-9:30pm

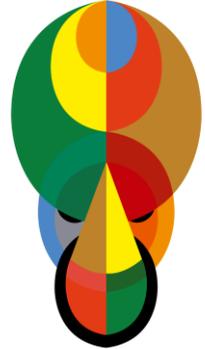
The Cultural Exchange

Featuring artists including: JTHEEX, Adynkrah, Maskelah.

An evening of cultural exchange through the media of poetry, music and open dialogue.

The artists attending will interact with the audience and share the inspirations and motivations for their work.

Donations



EXHIBITION TWO

17th - 30th October 2011

Private View 19th October 7 – 9pm

Paul Quashie

African Images in Pre Colombian America

This exhibition features 20 original images by photographer and historian Paul Quashie taken during 2006. Paul has travelled the world capturing socio-political imagery in film and photography and describes his extensive research projects as a “pursuit of truth: a labour of love, bringing forth intellectual ideologies which question an established status quo”

Paul says: “Reading ‘The African Presence in Early America’ and ‘They Came Before Columbus, books by Historian and Academic Ivan Van Sertima was what inspired me to visit Mexico and other parts of South America. By circumstance I am a self taught photographer, as being by myself I had to rely on my ability to take the photographs and video footage on my own. But it is thanks to Ivan Van Sertima that I knew there were black people living in ancient and present day South America.

The photographs in this exhibition were taken in 2006 and feature West Africans in the medieval period. Through this exhibition I hope to expose to others an alternative view of the history of Africa that is in total contrast to the one that I and many other people of African descent experienced that related Africans as slaves during the Transatlantic Slave Trade.”

GALLERY EVENTS

Wednesday 26th October

5:30-7pm

FREE

Gallery Talk and Q&A session with the artist



Friday 28th October

5:30-7pm

FREE

Gallery Talk and Q&A session with the artist

