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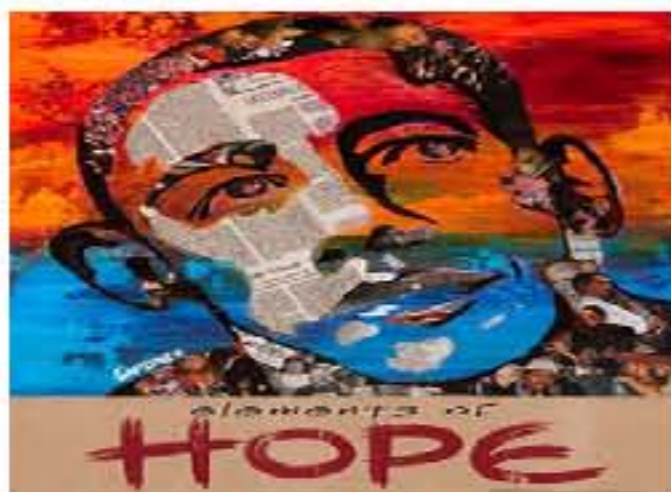
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Trinidad Artist Pays Tribute To Obama



The GA Gardner Obama poster.

CaribWorldNews, WASHINGTON, D.C., Weds. Jan. 7, 2009: A Trinidad national living in Washington, D.C. is paying tribute to the first elected black President of the United States in art.

GA Gardner, who has a doctorate in art education from Ohio State University, has completed a powerful poster of President-Elect Barack Obama. In his latest piece, 'Elements of Hope,' Gardner uses images and excerpts from the media in D.C. to create a poignant collage of President-Elect Obama.

The mixed media work is set in a background of vibrant colors and rich texture and translates the sentiments, images and hope inspired by Obama's historic election night win.

A sea of faces reflects America's melting pot. Though most belong to ordinary Americans, Gardner includes key figures surrounding the President-Elect including, Jesse Jackson, who famously cried as he witnessed Obama's speech and his Republican opponent John McCain. Above his right eye in the poster, sits the woman he calls his rock, his wife Michelle. Meanwhile, Obama's magnetic gaze bears the images of his daughters Malia and Sasha.

The work is so rich with symbolism that every viewing brings a new revelation about this historic icon that emerged from an eclectic experience. Gardner says his 'work is about the expression of color.'

'I create art that educates about the complexity of color and its effects on form, in our surroundings. The extreme colors and textures of the earth or the abstractions, transparency and layering of organic formations, all inspire me to explore and create. In essence my work is not abstract, rather it is a representation of abstract subjects in our environment,' he added.

Commenting specifically on the Obama piece he says, 'As I saw the resonance of Obama's victory and people's need to capture the event for themselves, I was moved to create my own tribute to the moment,' Gardner said.

The poster was the result of a collaboration of G3 Hope, a company formed by Andrea Murray, president and Denyese Thomas, marketing director, together with Gardner.

The Trinidad national's first professional experience began in the early days of airbrushing and painting apparel for performing artists in the hip-hop, break dancing era. In 1988 he became interested in animation and computer graphics while studying fine art at Harrisburg Area Community College in PA. This interest led him to San Francisco where he studied at Francisco State University. It was at this university that he began to seriously examine the computer's ability to create fine art. At this university he earned a BA in Interdisciplinary Arts and a MA in Education Technology. He then set his sights on graphics pioneering Ohio State University where Gardner worked to incorporate 3D graphics into his fine art. He earned a doctorate in Art Education at Ohio State University where he created fine art at the University's Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design.

Gardner later began showing his large format computer fine art images at various museums and galleries nationally and in Asia.

The Obama poster is available in art stores in Times Square, NYC. - *By CWNN Staff Writer.*

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