

# NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL OF SEYCHELLES NEWSLETTER

Edition 7

DATE: 22.01.2021



## LOCKDOWN BIENNALE

Last April should have seen the NAC launch the biggest ever exhibition of contemporary art in Seychelles in the form of the 2020 Byenal Sesel.

Then COVID-19 came along and we were sadly obliged to postpone the event until July of this year.

In the meantime we became aware that the 43 artists who were due to participate in the Biennale were all at one time or another under lockdown. We also realised that they would have been creating artwork during this time of restriction.

So, in order to maintain the Biennale momentum the NAC decided to organise a 'virtual' exhibition of this work. We contacted the artists who all thought that this was a very positive and enabling idea.

Much of the work which the artists subsequently sent to us expresses how people here and abroad feel about the pandemic and specifically illustrates how they, as artists, have coped with lockdowns which for some have lasted several months.

Shortly the NAC will declare this extensive online exhibition of artwork OPEN.

The show will then be available to the world, and will feature creative writing alongside images of art pieces- including sculpture, video, assemblage and painting.

At the same time a 100 page printed catalogue featuring the work in full colour will be published and available in Seychelles.

This initiative is a prelude to the full Biennale, the planning of which continues, but it will also offer further insights into the creative practice of our participating artists and will add to our understanding of the final – physical – show later this year.



## A Matter of Husbands

Tell us about yourself.

My name is Nichole Gamatis and I have directed the play 'A Matter of Husbands' by writer Ferenc Molnarc and translated by Benjamin Glazer. I decided to direct this play as part of my BFA course which required me to direct a series of projects.

Why this play?

I chose this ten (10) minute play as it is very realistic and relatable. The play shows that at times women come to a certain point in their lives where they find it difficult to handle things, more often women are unable to calmly deal with obstacles while others are confident and are able to defend themselves accordingly.

How did it go?

The journey of directing this play started in September of 2020, whereby a series of rehearsals was conducted for a period of one month and twenty days. Being the director for this play was not an easy task as I had to balance assignments and other projects at the same time, however I am thankful for all who supported me. I also want to thank my cast; my actresses Mrs. Verna Mondon and Ms. Stephanie Joubert for taking up the challenge and for the brilliant job, my parents, my lecturer Dr. Douglas Newell from Botswana, my cameraman Mr. Darrel Mousbe, Mr. Michel Commettant for the sounds, Mr. Marius Michel, Ms. Emmy Mousbe, my technical crew, the University of Seychelles, the Agency for natural resource & development (ANHRD) and the National Arts Council of Seychelles (NAC) for the rehearsal space and the Chief Executive Officer of the Creative Industry & National Events Agency Mr. Galen Bresson.



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National Arts Council of Seychelles



National Arts Council



National Arts Council



To commemorate women's Day  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021,  
the National Arts Council of Seychelles  
presents an

# "All Women's" art exhibition

The exhibition has an open theme & deadline  
for submission of work is  
**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, 4pm,**  
at the National Arts Council.

## Seychelles Fashion Week 2020



The third Seychelles Fashion Week was organized on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 at the International Conference Centre (ICCS) with the participation of six fashion designers.

In view of the pandemic the show was organized on a smaller scale overseen by Mr. Terry Carolla. He informed us that previously there would have been over sixty models and fifteen designers who would be participating in the event. Nonetheless, with determination and re-strategising a very interesting show was organized, showcasing local designers such as Mr. Darren Esther with his DA Extra Collection that fuses music with fashion. The events saw Mr. Ivan Capricieuse featuring locally made accessories, Ms. Natasha Laval with Nwadkoko accessories, Ms. Fina Zialor and Oushnajohn Labrosse with Ojz.

Some international fashion designers' work was also featured, including Nigerian designer Nancy Iwauagwu. A pleasant addition to the show was the presence of a panel comprised of technicians and experts including Mr. Carolla, the Director of the Seychelles Institute of Art and Design (SIAD) Ms. Christine Chetty, the Chief Executive Officer of the Enterprise Seychelles Agency (ESA) Ms. Angeliqe Appoo and the founder of the Seylingo clothing brand Mr. Ronny Julius. They discussed the potential, opportunities and challenges that exist in the fashion industry in Seychelles. The discussion also touched on ways to finance the industry and the impacts the pandemic has had on designers. The Director, Mr. Carolla, confirms that Seychelles will definitely be seeing a fourth Seychelles fashion week in 2021.