

Ashing presents Prelude at 101 Art Gallery

FOR many, the Covid-19 pandemic of December 2019 to present has represented an opportunity. Thanks to the societal shutdowns that occurred across the globe in a multitude of aspects, those such as Brian Ashing utilised the additional time available to engage in personal and professional development.

During last year, the representational artist, who is noted for both his semi-realistic and realistic portrayals, experienced a significant degree of growth in his painting skills, along with the sensibilities that serve as fuel for his work.

Ashing launched a project called Magnum Opera, a bi-monthly online space that features collages of his visual art, plus his poetry. He later presented an online exhibition titled Love, An Act of Hope, which was made up of previously non-exhibited works that he had created during his time pursuing an Environmental and Natural Resource Management degree at The University of the West Indies.

Later on in 2020, he attained a grant from the CATAPULT programme - a joint project from Kingston Creative, Fresh Milk Barbados and the American Friends of Jamaica - to continue pursuing his craft fulltime from his home in Piarco.

With a track record that includes participation in group shows and with works held in several private collections in Trinidad and Tobago and the USA, it is safe to say that Ashing certainly has not done badly so far.

On September 4, he officially launches his debut one-man exhibition, Prelude, at the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago in Federation Park.

Those in attendance will bear witness to Ashing's recently-mastered proclivity for oils. His exposure to a wide range of international works via social media platforms such as Instagram has served the former St Mary's College pupil who spent his first ten years in Sangre Grande well and his ability to add multiple dimensions of meaning to his human portraits, along with his outstanding landscapes, will be immediately captivating.

The show will be preceded by a two-day preview tomorrow and Friday, with the exhibition itself eventually closing on September 11. Private viewings can be booked through Mark Pereira and Dulcie Nieves at the 101 Art Gallery, at 678-0460 and 686-7943, respectively. This exhibition qualifies for the tax incentive that allows corporate purchases to be claimed at 100 per cent in the year of expenditure.

Opening hours are noon to 6 p.m., Tuesdays to Fridays; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. For additional information there is the 101 Gallery's website, 101artgallery.com, its Instagram page, [Instagram.com/101ArtGalleryTT](https://www.instagram.com/101ArtGalleryTT) and its Facebook site, [Fb.com/101art](https://www.facebook.com/101art). There is also an e-mail contact at [marknpereira@ gmail. com](mailto:marknpereira@gmail.com).

ONE-MAN SHOW: This piece is titled 'Nihilism'.