

Ashing explores *The Nature of Power*

WESLEY GIBBINGS

What does a young artist see in the pained silhouette of a green peninsula jutting into a turbulent ocean, under clouds that hover deceptively at peace? For Brian Ashing, these metaphors unfold in "Future", a key piece in his third solo exhibition, *The Nature of Power*.

Running from November 2 to 15 at LOFTT Gallery in Woodbrook, this collection dives into themes that push beyond Ashing's usual comfort zone.

Known for his meticulous portraiture, Ashing now embraces more intense narrative terrains—turning his focus toward the interplay of human nature and the environment. His previous exhibitions, *The Solid Shadow* (2022) and *Prelude* (2021), established him as one of the country's leading visual artists.

LOFTT Gallery promises *The Nature of Power* will showcase "a fiery new body of work" that explores the tensions between "human nature and the natural environment." The exhibition will provoke thought and emotion, delving into humanity's darker impulses and power struggles.

When we met Ashing, 30, at the Fine Art Market TT in Chaguaramas on October 19, his display featured gentle oil portraits—rich with themes of beauty, love, and tenderness. Yet, the pieces in *The Nature of Power* venture boldly into new conceptual realms.

According to the gallery, Ashing's work now grapples with "imagined worlds governed by gods locked in an eternal struggle for power."

Notable works in this exhibition include the unsettling *Ceremonials II* and the evocative *Temptation and Damnation*, both of which examine the delicate dance between control and chaos.

Visitors will encounter a transformation in Ashing's approach—from precise portraiture to dramatic narratives brimming with emotional complexity. As LOFTT puts it, Ashing is "turning up the dial on imagination," inviting viewers into the depths of his artistic evolution.

For those eager to gain further insight into his work, Ashing will host an artist talk on November 9 at 6 pm. Additionally, visitors can attend the opening reception on November 2 at 6 pm, or drop by the gallery at 63 Rosalino Street, Woodbrook, between 10 am and 6 pm throughout the exhibition's run.

The Nature of Power promises to challenge perceptions and stir emotions—marking another bold step in the artistic journey of one of the Caribbean's rising talents.



Destiny and Damnation

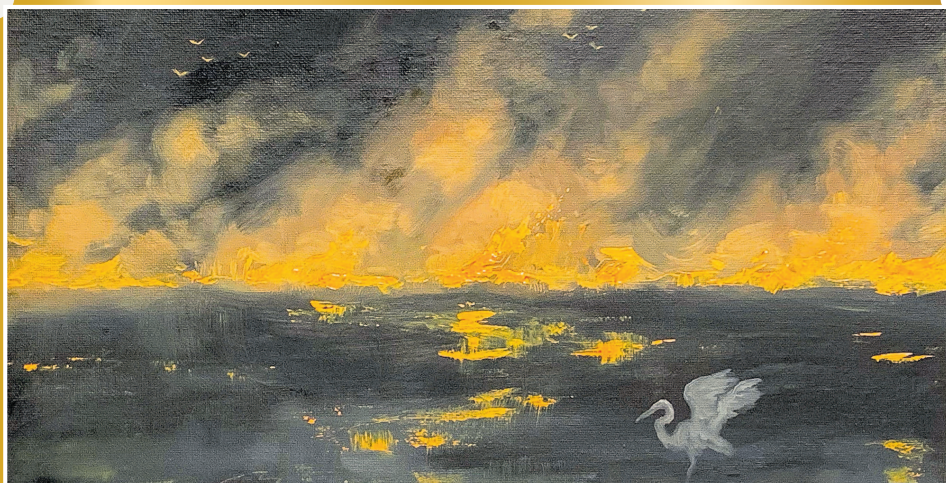
PHOTOS COURTESY LOFTT GALLERY



Brian Ashing alongside one of his pieces at the Fine Art Market.
PHOTO BY WESLEY GIBBINGS



Future



Ceremonials II