

# ParFe Visit

As the Council does every end of the year, we met with the Praslin Arts Federation (ParFe) on Friday 26th November, 2021, in order to discuss the way forward for 2022.

The CEO of NAC, Mr. Jimmy Savy, shared his expectations for the Federation and commended the active members of ParFe who are doing great work on the island, specifically with the development programmes they have been conducting with the youth. The Chairman of ParFe, Mr. Regis Philoe, shared aspects of the work they plan to execute next year, their plans for recruitment and schedule of events.

The Praslin Arts Federation (ParFe) is welcoming artists from the island who wish to form part of the association with the aim of raising the profile and status of culture across Praslin society.

# La Digue Visit

On 27th November, 2021 the Council organised a meeting with La Digue artists to follow up on the 2020 meeting which established a steering committee to oversee aspects of cultural development on the island. The presence of La Digue artists was more evident this year, and participation exceeded the Council's expectation. The meeting reaped fruitful discussions and in the process a new steering committee was elected and which comprises of the Chairperson Ms. Jeva Pool, Treasurer Mrs. Noleen Sophola, Secretary Mr. Egbert Ernesta and ordinary members Mr. David Barreau, Mr. Tony Morel and Mr. Dylan Owen (who is the secondary art teacher on the Island).

The committee will oversee its first event on the 28th December, 2021 at L'Union Estate, in order to showcase some of the great work the La Digue artists have to offer.

The committee will commence recruitment of artists on the island and collectively propose events for next year. We are excited for La Digue and we await the naming of this new association with great interest. .



# LAR DAN VIKTORIYA



The NAC, in collaboration with the Enterprise Seychelles Agency (ESA), organised a cultural arts bazaar - headlined 'Lar Dan Viktorya' - on the 17th and 18th December, 2021 at the Camion Hall. The bazaar facilitated the sale of artwork and locally made crafts.

This initiative is aimed at bringing together local artists of all ages who practice different art forms, from visual to music and from traditional to modern. 'Lar dan Viktorya' is expected to take its place as a culturally significant exhibit of exclusive Seychellois arts and crafts.

Participation in the bazaar included the arts association SEYLAR, who showcased work made by the association's visual artists, especially during lockdown. Artisans from around the country also exhibited.

The NAC was excited to finally collaborate with ESA on such a project and we hope that this culturally important event will meet the needs of the newly established cultural institution by sensitising the general public, valorising culture and art, and subsequently nurturing some jolly good seasonal spirit in the country in advance of the Christmas celebrations

# NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL OF SEYCHELLES NEWSLETTER

EDITION 12: HOLIDAY SPECIAL

DATE: 29.12.2021

## A round up of successful events organized in 2021 by the National Arts Council of Seychelles

Overall NAC activities were compromised as a result of the pandemic, however, this did not deter the team from coming up with new and innovative ideas appropriate to the conditions in which we were operating – in fact if anything the pandemic made us try harder and adopt more creative approaches to keeping culture alive despite the pandemic. Our team had to step out of its normal comfort zone and push the envelope.



One of the new initiatives undertaken by NAC was the launch of a regular NAC Newsletter, the first edition of which was published in January 2021, featuring events, artists and projects ongoing in the country.

The NAC newsletter continues to be published at the close of every month, with the aim of sensitising the public on a broad bandwidth of cultural activity, as well as providing information regarding cultural activity and prominent and upcoming cultural players.

The newsletters also highlight the work the Council is undertaking and provide exposure to our local artists, promoting both them and their individual and collective projects.

This special Holiday Edition will showcase the successful events, activities and initiatives undertaken by the NAC during this past, challenging year. The Council hopes that you will find this 12th edition informative and enjoyable.

### NAC Talk

This is a talk show formulated to cover art-related topics. The aim of this production is to collect and present a range of views on various art related topics pertinent to Seychelles.

The first episode for NAC Talk focused upon that old chestnut 'What is an artist?' and featured the Cultural Ambassador Mr. Patrick Victor. The resulting videos can be seen on our various social media platforms; YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

The second episode featured a prominent Visual Artist, Mr. James Agricole, discussing the topic of how the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted upon him as a visual artist and how it has affected artists in general.

Episode three featured artist Ms. Angela Belle on her development as a specialist creator of crochet and cross stitching, which are traditional practices in Seychelles now under threat. We aim to restore interest in, and respect for such art practices as they represent a major aspect of our creole culture.

The fourth episode, which was released during the first week of December, featured the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NAC Mr. Jimmy Savy. The interview with the CEO pertained to the functions of the Council and the initiatives undertaken throughout the years to encourage the development of the arts in the country.

Our hope is that NAC Talk increases cultural awareness and provides information on the arts and culture for the general public. As the show progresses and develops we hope that it will become a platform for innovation and national discussion on various cultural topics, encompassing both traditional/heritage and contemporary aspects of creativity.



# Women's Day

To commemorate Women's Day, which took place on the 8th of March 2021, the NAC organised a virtual exhibition featuring various Seychellois female artists such as Zsaklin Miklos, Lynn Cedras, Christine Chetty-Payet, Johnise Juliette, Sandra Decomarmond, Doris Nourrice, Angela Belle, Michelle Griffiths, Carol Rita Charles and Juliette Zelime.

It was a beautiful display of great artistic talents amongst our female artists in the Seychelles.



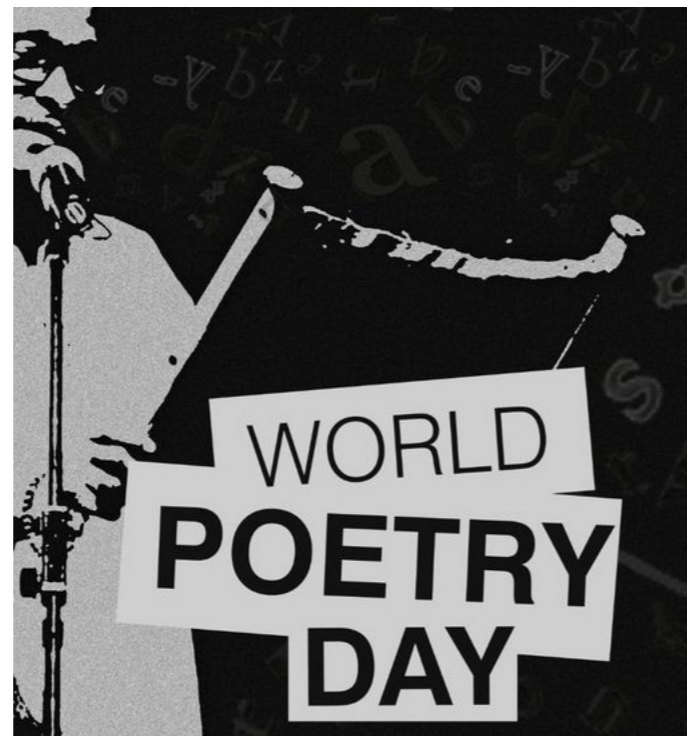
# World Poetry Day

Although there was no specific theme for World Poetry Day 2021, the occasion was designed to promote linguistic diversity in a country. World Poetry Day provided an opportunity to honour poets, revive oral traditions through poetry recitals, and further promote the reading, writing and teaching of poetry.

The day was used to acknowledge poetry as a key art form in our country, specifically through the work of existing Poetry Associations such as 'Bling Bling Nod', which is affiliated with the NAC. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions the Council and association were unable to organise and execute a Poetry Festival.

Instead, in order to celebrate the genre and provide exposure and recognition to poets in Seychelles the Council organised a Virtual Exhibition on the 21st March, 2021, which featured six prominent Seychellois poets; Mr. Tony Joubert, Ms. Stephanie Joubert, Ms. Georgette Larue, Ms. Bettyna Gagnier, Mr. Ronny Esparon and Ms. Agnes Melanie.

The Council's hope is that in the years to come, NAC will be able to discover more poets or help encourage participation in this specific art form in the Seychelles. We also anticipate the organisation of spoken word event and open mic platforms. Finally, we look forward to the Poetry Festival which is an initiative planned by Bling Bling Nod for 2022.



# Telethon

Telethon is an initiative started by artists Mr. Gilles Lionnet and Cultural Ambassador Mr. Patrick Victor, along with members of the cultural committee in collaboration with the National Arts Council of Seychelles, Red Cross Seychelles, Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), FM Radio, Téléselesel and other private businesses on the island.

The virtual concert was one of the biggest virtually presented and televised solidarity concert ever organised in Seychelles. It had the aim of reviving the Seychelles music sector while highlighting the importance of unity, solidarity, and the provision of some well-deserved musical entertainment for the people.

Telethon - smartly worded to convey the message of a sort of 'Televised Marathon' - showcased musical artists for a total of four hours on SBC, Téléselesel and FM radio.

Another secondary objective of the telethon was to raise funds for the Red Cross to facilitate their humanitarian objectives.

The Council was very happy to support this artistic initiative for the first time in the Seychelles and we look forward to supporting more of these projects.



# KONPETISYON KWIZ

En konpetisyon ti gany organize par Konsey Nasyonal pou Lar an kolaborasyon avek Lenstiti Kreol dan mwan oktob pou konmemor lazournen enternasyonal lanmizik e osi Festival kreol.

Bann semi-finalist konpetisyon ti al tête-a-tête le 26 oktob, 2021 kot Teat Nasyonal.

Dan premye pozisyon venker ti lekol Anse Boileau Segonder, swivi par lekol Beau Vallon segonder dan dezyenm pozisyon, e dan trwazyenm pozisyon lekol Belonie Segonder.



Pou meyer skorer final rezilta in ganny ranporte par Heidi Orphe sorti lekol Beau Vallon e Ruben Morel sorti lekol Anse Boileau, toulede avek senk pwen.

Konsey Nasyonal pou lar e Lenstiti Kreol i oule remersi tou lekol kinn partisip dan sa konpetisyon, e espere ki lot lannen nou gany plis partisipasyon.





# INDIA DAY



NAC has established an ongoing collaboration with the office of the Indian High Commission of Seychelles. In May of 2021, in collaboration with NAC, the High Commission of India organised and launched a painting competition to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

An exhibition of the paintings received was held at the High Commission of India and a prize distribution ceremony for winners was organised on 22nd July 2021.

The results of the competition under each category were as follows:

## Children:

- 1st prize- Chloe Mambe
- 2nd prize- Harshadha Pillay
- 3rd prize- Chloe Tirant



## Youth:

- 1st prize- Taral Bhasadia
- 2nd prize- Clara Lepathy
- 3rd prize- Tyra Anthony

## Amateurs:

- 1st prize- Amrapali Sinha
- 2nd prize- Selby Remie
- 3rd prize- Divyalakshmi Sekaran



## Professional Artists:

- 1st prize- Nigel Henri
- 2nd prize- Juliette Zelime
- 3rd prize- Akriti Sinha

The Council would like to thank the Ambassador of the Indian Commission for acknowledging Seychellois artists on this day and look forward to future collaborative efforts.

# ZENN ARTIS LEMONN KREOLOFONN 2021 "LARSITEKTIR KREOL"



Konpetisyon Zenn artis lemonn kreolofonn I en akitivite annyel avek bi pou ankouraz zanfan lekol pou demontre zot talan artistik lo kote lar vizyèl.

Sa lannen NAC ti rikord en total 98 partisipan sorti dan (10) lekol primer e segonder.

Ti annan plizyer kategori dan sa konpetisyon e le meyer ti ganny prezante avek bann pri tre enteresan donnen par NAC limenm ek lezot kontribiter tel ki Semi- Sub Seychelles, Maison Marengo e Lansiv Café.

Konsej Nasyonal pou lar I remersi bann lekol pour zot partisipasyon.

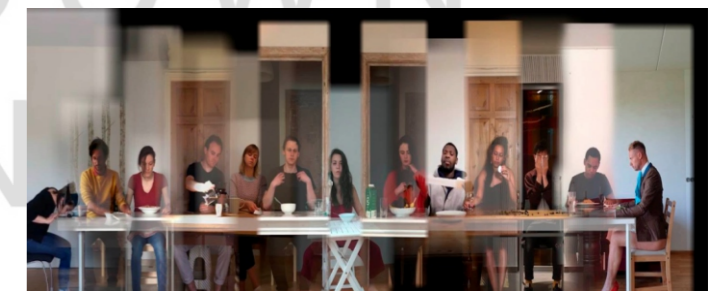
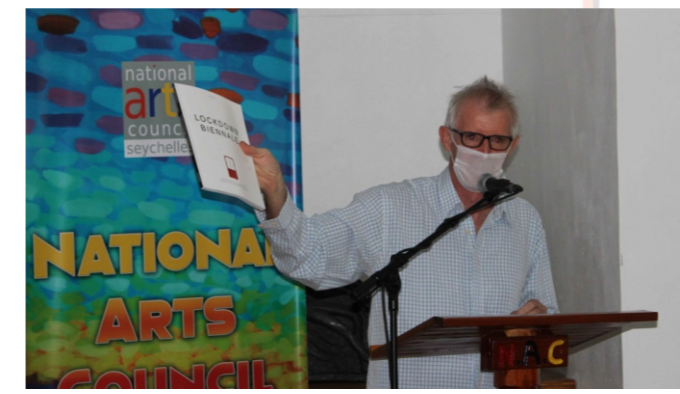


# SEYCHELLES BIENNALE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

The Seychelles Biennale of Contemporary Art Exhibition was originally set to take place in April, 2020 under the theme 'Lost and Found', and this promised to be the largest ever exhibition of contemporary visual art ever mounted in Seychelles, with 45 artists (Seychellois and international) scheduled to participate.

The decision to postpone the 2020 Biennale for more than one year was forced upon the National Arts Council by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council, along with head curator Mr. Martin Kennedy, re-strategised and organised a virtual exhibition which featured the work of all but two of the original Biennale artists. This was launched on the 22nd March, and went a long way to maintaining the dynamic motivation of the Biennale concept.

The virtual exhibition had the participation of 43 artists; 17 local artists and 22 international. Subsequently, a physical catalogue showcasing the work of the artists was also published and presented on the day. We thank all Seychellois and international artists for their enthusiastic participation in this project. Once again, the NAC anticipates with relish the physical version of the Biennale, which we will launch in July 2022.



The Virtual Exhibition can be seen on [www.lockdown-biennale.sc](http://www.lockdown-biennale.sc)



## Mutual EXHIBITIONS

Amongst the many initiatives undertaken by the Council to provide exposure for upcoming artists, two mutual exhibitions took place this year. Both exhibitions included the work of a young upcoming visual artist developed with the guidance of a professional counterpart.

The first exhibition took place on 15th June, 2021 at Carrefour de Art Gallery featuring professional visual artist Mr. Nigel Henri and upcoming artist Mr. Terry Moncherry.



Mr Nigel Henrie and Mr Terry Monchery

The second mutual visual arts exhibition took place on the 12th November, 2021 featuring the first collection of artwork by autistic artist Mr. Patrick Alexis, supported by his uncle, professional artist Mr. Robert Alexis.



## PATRICK & ROBERT ALEXIS ART EXHIBITION



## AFRICA DAY

This was celebrated under the theme of 'Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa we want' on Tuesday 25th May 2021.

To commemorate the day, the Council organised an exhibition showcasing the work of local female fashion designer Ms. Christine Reginald, who integrates the iconography of African culture in her work. She utilises African textiles and fabrics in order to make vibrant African inspired products such as clothes, bracelets, bags, pillows and necklaces. The NAC had the pleasure of supporting and showcasing the work of Ms. Reginald.



A little bit of background: In 1996 Christine enrolled at the National College of the Arts, where she developed her sewing skills. She then studied fashion design for two years.

She told the NAC that her proudest achievement was designing and sewing a dress for a civil wedding, as well as sewing clothes for groups who participated in the national carnival. She has also fashioned costumes for ladies participating in beauty pageants, as well as school uniforms and clothes for parties and weddings.

Christine also operates a small decorating business under the name Miska décor and creations.

In 2017 she participated in a competition called 'Stilis Mode' organised by the SBC; she reached the finals with a collection for 'Plus Size' people.

We hope to see more of Ms. Reginald and her work in the future.



## Re-opening of The National Theatre

The National Theatre has reopened its doors to artists and the general public as of October, 2021. It is a facility under the purview of the NAC, and is a facility which holds the objective of developing the arts in Seychelles. The refurbished theatre has 165 seats.

To continue the tradition of the National Theatre of Seychelles as a venue for artistic renditions with the aim of educating and building interest in the higher aspects of art, one principal aim of the theatre is to promote and encourage the staging, production and performance of a range of theatrical, dance, musical and other art forms to the highest standard.

Productions should also, of course, be entertaining, challenging and inspiring for the general public, and promote public appreciation and dialogue, as well as promote the further development of all art forms.

Present at the event was the Secretary General Mr. David Andre, the Minister of Education Mr. Justin Valentin, Principal Secretary for Culture Ms. Cecile Kalebi, the Cultural Ambassador Mr. Patrick Victor and the other esteemed guests, including previous NAC board members.

The event included a beautiful performance by the Expo national day production team, who subsequently performed our cultural show at the Dubai Expo 2020 on the occasion of the Seychelles National Day on the 28th October, 2021. Please note that this was an allocated national day specific to the Expo programme and is different to our own annual day of celebration.

We are excited about the future of the theatre, and anticipate various other artistic performances of merit which will bless the stage of the National Theatre in the future.

