

KEN'S CHOICE # 13. 6.June.06

Kamau wins yet another poetry prize  
and

The arts of Guyana showing in Manhattan

*I received these two interesting stories (with much thanks) from Peter Jallall  
and Pat Savory in Toronto.*



## GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE 2006

### International Winner

**Book:** [Born to Slow Horses](#)

**Publisher:** Wesleyan University Press

KAMAU BRATHWAITE, born in Barbados in 1930, is an internationally celebrated poet, performer, and cultural theorist. Co-founder of the Caribbean Artists Movement, he was educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge and has a PhD from the University of Sussex in the UK.

He has served on the board of directors of UNESCO's History of Mankind project since 1979, and as cultural advisor to the government of Barbados from 1975-1979 and again since 1990. Brathwaite has received numerous awards, among them the Neustadt International Prize for Literature, the Bussa Award, the Casa de las Américas Prize, and the Charity Randall Prize for Performance and Written Poetry. He has received Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships, among many others. His book, *The Zea Mexican Diary* (1992) was The Village Voice Book of the Year. Brathwaite has authored many works, including *Middle Passages* (1994), *Ancestors* (2001) and *The Development of Creole Society, 1770-1820* (2005). Brathwaite is currently a professor of comparative literature at New York University. He divides his time between CowPastor, Barbados and New York City.

### Judges' Citation

“To read Kamau Brathwaite is to enter into an entire world of human histories and natural histories, beautiful landscapes and their destruction, children's street songs, high lyricism, court documents, personal letters, literary criticism, sacred rites, eroticism and violence, the dead and the undead, confession and reportage. An epic of one man (containing multitudes) in the African diaspora, Brathwaite's world even has its own orthography and typography, demanding total attention to the poem, forbidding casual glances. *Born to Slow Horses* is a major book from a major poet. Here political realities turn into musical complexities, voices overlap, history becomes mythology, spirits appear in photographs. And, in it what may well be the first enduring poem on the disaster of 9/11, Manhattan becomes another island in the poet's personal archipelago, as the sounds of Coleman Hawkins transform into the words and witnesses and survivors. Throughout *Born to Slow Horses*, as in his earlier books, Brathwaite has invented a new linguistic music for subject matter that is all his own.”

June 1 to August 11, 2006

Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**IDB Cultural Center Art Gallery**, 1300 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20577, Tel. 202 623 3774 (free admission).



"Windows to the Caribbean," 2004, by Carl Anderson,

### **The Arts of Guyana: A Multicultural Caribbean Adventure**

The exhibit pays tribute to Guyanese artists living and working in Guyana, in celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month.

The artworks include objects by the Amerindian population, painting, and sculpture representing contemporary artists drawn from several private and public collections,

An exhibition featuring both utilitarian utensils made by the Guyanese Amerindians, and painting, sculpture, leather and fiber objects by contemporary Guyanese artists from different ethnic backgrounds living in Guyana. More than fifty works by the Amerindian population have been selected, as well as painting and sculpture representing contemporary artists drawn from several private and public collections.

"The exhibit recognizes the cultural contributions made, from pre-Columbian times to the present, by so many men and women of varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including regional indigenous Americans, Africans, Indians and Europeans".

"This exhibition has been organized with the idea of showing the multicultural composition of Guyanese society today, to give credit to the many people who have participated in the cultural definition of its nationhood as represented by architecture, and to recognize those contemporary artists who continue to work in the country no matter how difficult the practice of the arts may be. Guyana is called Land of Six Peoples for the multi-racial composition of its society. In reality it is much more than that, a land of many cultures, traditions and faiths from all continents."

The catalogue includes a marginal reference to the architectural legacy of Guyana, one of the richest in the Caribbean. Examples of Christian, Hindu and Muslim faiths, and Indian, Middle Eastern, Chinese and European cultures abound

An additional component has been added as represented by the work of Stanley Greaves, Patrick Barrington, Hubert Moshett and Ronald Savory,

Outstanding in the exhibition are the leather sculptures of Winston Strick, one of which has been recently acquired by the Inter-American Development Bank; the paintings by Carl Anderson; and the paintings, sculptures, and reliefs of Philip Moore, one of the most intriguing and multi-faceted artists of the entire Caribbean, still living and working in Guyana. The exhibit also includes the fiber work of three much younger, promising students at the Art Faculty of the University of Guyana: Carlesta Sutton, Stacia Pitt, and Brian George.