THE CARIBBEAN MUSEUM CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS:

WOMEN TO WOMEN,
DE MUJER A MUJER, ISLA A ISLA: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN VI & PR ARTISTS

ISLAND TO ISLAND

CURATED BY: CARMEN MOJICA

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“Well, first - that term, ‘women artists’. I was talking to Joan Mitchell at a party about ten years ago when a man came up to us and said, ‘What do you women artists think…’ Joan grabbed my arm and said, ‘Elaine, let’s get the hell out of here.’”

Elaine de Kooning in ARTnews, January 1971

Reprinted in the June 2015 issue of ARTnews, which is a special issue about Women in the art world today and 30 years ago.

Most of us “women artists” feel this same way - who wants to be pigeonholed into a category based on gender, race, or sexual orientation. Whoever heard Picasso described as a “white heterosexual male artist”?

While none of us wants to be categorized as a something artist or anything for that matter; be it woman artist, black artist, gay artist, musician, writer, politician, plumber, soldier, the truth is there are still so many issues that lay in the way of full parity for women artists and others. Parity is usually associated with pay and equal pay along with equal rights is still to be achieved.

The spotlight is shining on this topic in the news and social media now as the Guerrilla Girls celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. This anonymous group of women artists who have worn gorilla masks to hide their identity as they have protested the injustice evident in the art world statistics tolling the number of women having museum shows and appointments. They have made great strides but clearly there is a lot of work to be done.

Artists have to work harder than almost anyone on the planet because no one cares if we make the work or not. Writer Anita Brookner’s quote sums up the general response to art: “The illicit manufacture of a substance not needed for survival.” The ARTnews articles once again give us the sad statistics on how far Virginia Slim has not come. In spite of the fact that over 60% of all art students and possibly even registered artists (on tax forms, museum and art association lists) are women; at best in a few galleries and museums only 30% of the artists shown are women. Most of the statistics regarding shows, sales, museum appointments, director’s salaries, fall way, way below.

For that reason we must concede that there are not enough venues, not enough opportunities, not enough press coverage, not enough sales, not enough inclusion in public and private collections for women whose art practice is on par with their peers.

Carmen Mojica is an artist who wants to change that. As an artist/curator she has been working passionately to plant the seed for a Women’s Museum in Puerto Rico. She has worked steadily since 1996 to educate people on the importance of women in art, and of collecting and presenting the artistic and cultural contributions of women to the history of Puerto Rico under the banner of a non-profit she founded to further this cause. In March of 2015 Mojica presented Woman to Woman 2 at the Museum of History in Ponce which is the precursor to this show at Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts. It was the 6th time the
Club de Fotos y Artes Plasticas presented an exhibition to share the work and ideas of women in their art practice and lives. A highlight of the show catalog is the series of comments from the artists as they address other women.

The exhibition in Ponce this past March, the international month of women, was dedicated to Doña Isabel Rosado Morales, an educator, social worker and activist who fought for human rights and progress for women and all Puerto Ricans. Carmen wanted to recognize her and those women who have clung to their ideals with conviction in times of turmoil; in her own words, “...brave women who have opened spaces to express and share different perspectives for future generations. These perspectives open up spaces for dialogue about the place of women in our society. Let’s think about a permanent space that honors women!”

Carmen is dedicating this show, **Women to Women, Island to Island: de Mujer a Mujer, Isla a Isla: A dialogue between VI & PR artists commemorating VI - PR Friendship**, to CMCA founder, Candia Atwater. Candia Atwater has worked very hard to achieve her dream of providing a world-class exhibition space for international and Caribbean artists to show their work and share their practice with students and the community. In the Virgin Islands no other venue exists to provide the context and support (museum space) for contemporary, traditional and cultural presentations. She has at times single handedly kept this goal in tact and was able to inspire a patron to purchase and renovate an historical building in Frederiksted, St. Croix to house exhibitions, classes, studios and residences for international and Caribbean artists. The Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts has been in this building at 10 Strand Street for 10 years now but continues to struggle. Over the 20 years since the concept was first developed international scholars and critics have participated in this ongoing project of presenting a first rate museum space for contemporary art. Among them are Luis Camnitzer, Gerardo Mosquera, Rachel Weitz, Joanna Soltan, Kendal Henry and many others who have lent their expertise and enthusiasm to CMCA because of the dedication and sacrifice of this woman whose vision has led the way.

This exhibition, **Women to Women, Island to Island, de Mujer a Mujer, Isla a Isla...** is an invitation to the artists and viewers to investigate our place in art as woman, citizens of the Caribbean and the world, mothers, teachers, and community members and activists. What do we need in the Virgin Islands to make this a healthier more vibrant community for artists and all members of our society. What should we do to open more doors of opportunity for artists, teachers and students to share their practice with the community to foster the belief that we have the potential to become one of the most humane, intellectually and emotionally healthy places on the planet. We can start today!

On behalf of Carmen and myself we thank you for your participation and welcome your support.

JANET COOK-RUTNIK
“Similarly, consider the women of our time as dynamic, free, inspired and adventurous; one that looks for her identity through the eyes of Jesus. An exemplified woman is not easy to find, her worth is more than precious stones ... Prov. 31:10.”

“In Frederiksted after the 1878 Labor Riot or “Fire burn” much of the town was burnt by a revolt led by women. They used machetes and fire, cuts and burns, as weapons. They used the same tools, used for work, to protest the unfair labor system. May we all have the courage of the Queens: Mary Thomas, Mathilda Macbean, Susanna “Bottom Belly” Abrahamson and Axeline “Queen Agnes” Salomon.”

“En Frederiksted después del 1878 hubo gran protestas laboral y gran parte de la ciudad fue quemada por una revuelta liderada por mujeres. Usaron machetes y fuego, cortes y quemaduras, como armas. Utilizaron las mismas herramientas que utilizaban en sus trabajos para protestar contra el sistema laboral injusto. Que todas tengamos la valentía de las Reinas: Mary Thomas, Mathilda MacBean, Susana “Belly Bottom” Abrahamson y Axeline “Queen Agnes” Salomon.”
“I know you only from fragments of stories. Grandma says you suffered an accident. You were on your way to help deliver a baby, but the driver of the car hit a palm tree. I think Grandma was only 8 or 9 years old when it happened. Your body was placed—alive—on an Ox Cart. You passed before arriving to the Frederiksted Hospital. What made you, a French-Spanish midwife, sail with your husband and eight children to St.Croix in the 1920's? Did you see it as a migration or just a new beginning?”

“Te conozco sólo por fragmentos de la historia. La abuela dice que sufrió un accidente. Usted estaba de camino para ayudar a entregar a un bebé, pero el conductor del coche chocó contra un árbol de palma. Creo que la abuela tenía sólo 8 o 9 años cuando ocurrió. Su cuerpo fue colocado-vivo-en una carroza de buey. Te fuiste antes de llegar al Hospital Frederiksted. ¿Qué te hizo, una partera Francés-Español, navegar con tu marido y ocho hijos a St. Croix en la década de 1920? ¿Lo viste como la migración o simplemente como un nuevo comienzo?”

“The female being reflects in her natural strength as a woman in the true existence of life. Every woman is her own universe and master of her own destiny.”

“El ser femenino se refleja en su fuerza natural como mujer en la verdadera existencia de la vida. Cada mujer es su propio universo y es dueña de su propio destino.”
“Stop it! Stop hiding behind that mask. Know yourself. You are beautiful. You are acceptable. There’s no need to change. You are a dynamic world-changer. Believe it, claim it, walk in it, live it, before your light is dimmed.”

“Detente, para! Deja de estar escondiéndote detrás de tu mascara. Conócete. Tu eres preciosa. Acéptate a ti misma. No hay razón para cambiar. Eres dinámica, una cambiadora del mundo; créelo, reclámalo, camina en este pensamiento y vívelo antes que se apague tu luz”.

“Crucian Masquerader”
Acrylic Painting on Canvas (Cardboard) Wood
12 “ x 12”
2015

JANET COOK-RUTNIK STJ

“Our Father”
Photographic installation
(90” x 10”) and Video - 2 mins. 33 sec
2009

“Be yourself! Respect yourself, take care of yourself - do this so that you can be healthy and happy and so that you can love and care for your children if you are so blessed. Know that your voice is important in making personal, political, social and family decisions.”

“Ser uno mismo! Respetarse a si mismo, cuidarse a si mismo - hacer esto para que usted pueda estar sano y feliz y para que pueda amar y cuidar a sus hijos si tiene esta bendición. Sepa que su voz es importante para tomar decisiones personales, políticas sociales y familiares.”

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“Crucian Masquerader”
Acrylic Painting on Canvas (Cardboard) Wood
12 “ x 12”
2015

DANICA DAVID STX
“Woman, remember you have only one life, enjoy every stage of it and be present. Treasure the best memories and discard those that trouble you; do not cling to them ... everything passes.”

“Mujer, recuerda que solo tienes una vida, disfruta de cada etapa de tu vida y momento presente. Atesora los mejores recuerdos y descarta aquellos que te angustian, no te aferres a ello...todo pasa.”

“Virtuous woman, do not fear your destiny. Leave the past behind like a sunset, and tear those old rags from your body. Think that tomorrow is a new day that will come. Continue your path with trust; you will be surprised at how far you will go.”

“Virtuosa, nunca temas por lo que ha de venir. Arranca de ti esas viejas vestiduras y deja el pasado como el ocaso, pensando en que mañana yacerás en un nuevo amanecer. Sigue adelante, sé valiente, confía y te sorprenderás cuán lejos llegarás.”
“Woman, respect yourself, do not underestimate yourself. Accept your values as a human being first and then as a woman. Face your problems with your head high, and do not forget the solace you can give to others in a time of need. You will find in the end how much you have to offer, and without thinking, you will be on the right way towards your journey in life.”

“Mujer, respétele a ti misma. No te menosprecies. Acepta tu valor primero como ser humano y luego como mujer. Enfrenta tus problemas con la frente en alto, y no olvides el consuelo que puedes ofrecer a otra en momentos difíciles. Encontrarás así lo mucho que tienes que ofrecer, y sin pensar, tendrás tu camino en la vida comenzado.”

“Silence for two”  
Acrylic painting  
30” x 36”  
2004

“Living in the moment that we have had with firmness and honesty. Feeling proud of what we do.”

“Vivir el momento que nos ha tocado con firmeza y honestidad. Sentirnos orgullosas de lo que hacemos.”

“Mujer marcada”  
Ceramic, slip silkscreen and glaze  
13” x 6” x 6”  
2014

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“Inner Beauty Beloved women, sister, friend, mother, wife, daughter, unique and irreplaceable are you. You generate a fountain of emotions and beauty from within. Believe in yourself because you do not need artificial things in order to be accepted.”

“Amada mujer, hermana, amiga, madre, esposa, hija, mujer única e irrepetible. Generadora de emociones, eres hermosa pero hablo de tu hermosura interior, en la mujer que cree en si misma. La que no necesita de artífices para ser aceptada. Esta belleza no tiene precio, no se puede comprar, es la que marca la diferencia en cada una de nosotras y la que realmente cuenta.”

“Simply stated, you are you. Do not add anything else to this argument. It is irrelevant if you are a man or a woman, we are all flesh and bones. Everything else depends on how you decide to be, to resolve, to learn and to deliver because life is an offering.”

“Simplemente eres. No le añadas nada más al argumento. Es irrelevante si eres hombre o mujer, todos somos de carne y hueso. Lo demás es como lo decidas ver, resolver, aprender y entregar, por que la vida es ofrenda.”
“In the Batey series”  
Photography printed on wood  
16” x 20”  
2011

“You have a roof over your head, food and water to feed your family. You have the love of your children, partner, family and friends. You have more than many other people; you don’t need anything more.”

“Tienes techo sobre tu cabeza. Tienes comida y agua para alimentar a tu familia. Tienes amor de tus hijos, pareja, familia y amigos. Tienes más que muchos, no necesitas más.”

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“The beauty of the silent souls”  
Photography  
50” x 70”  
2013/2014

“To my friend, Olimpia:  
Life has granted me a blessing: the gift of a very special “spirit” that has decided to guide me along the pathways of my life. To speak of her, as a friend does not do justice, it is too simple; maybe she is something like “a twin soul-sister”… describing her in words is no easy task!  
--So it is thanks to her -- I owe her so much.”

“A mi amiga , Olimpia :  
La vida me ha otorgado una bendición : el don de un “espíritu” muy especial que ha me ha guiado por gran parte del camino de mi vida, hablar de ella simplemente como una amiga no le hace justicia y describirla solo con palabras no es tarea fácil !  
-- si yo sigo creyendo que voy a lograr mis objetivos, entonces es gracias a ella - le debo tanto”
“The Goddess Within: the maiden...the mother...the crone”
Fabric and paper collage with acrylic on paper
14” x 18”
2015

“You are born a Goddess and as you walk through life as a maiden, a mother and eventually as a crone, your beauty, strength, and spirit will define you.”

“Tu naciste como una diosa y al caminar por la vida como una doncella, una madre y, finalmente, como una sabia, tu belleza, fuerza y espíritu te definirán.”

CARMEN G. MOJICA MARTÍNEZ PR

from the Huellas Series:
Mujer es igual a (=) Mujer Diptic
Photography
18” x 20” x 2 36” x 40”
2014

“Your age does not matter; you are a hero for many women. Age should not be an obstacle or an impediment when it means reaching your goals. Struggle, and don’t give up. As a woman, you are valuable.”

“No importa tu edad, eres un héroe para muchas mujeres. La edad no debe ser un obstáculo ni un impedimento cuando de alcanzar tus metas se trate. Lucha, y no te des por vencida. Mujer veterana vales.”
“In this journey of womanhood, where time is an accomplice of lived experience; we emerge fruitfully into our warlike souls. Some say that fate is already marked; I prefer to think we have control of our lives, although our paths may be difficult. We need to overcome obstacles in order to enrich our spirit and strength and feel better as women and human beings in the battlefields of life.”

“In este viaje de ser mujer, donde el tiempo es cómplice de lo vivido, es que emerge nuestra alma fecunda y guerrera. Algunos dicen que el destino ya esta marcado, prefiero pensar que tenemos las riendas de nuestras vidas, aunque sea difícil la trayectoria. De vencer obstáculos se enriquece nuestro espíritu, se fortalece para sentirnos mejores mujeres, mejores seres humanos en pleno campo de batalla.”

“Woman to woman -- never allow anyone to disrespect you. If you don’t respect yourself no one will respect you. Only you have the right to decide “yes” or “no” when it comes to your body and life. You are the owner of your being. Love yourself!”

“De mujer a mujer -- nunca permitas que se te falte el respeto. Si tu no te respetas, nadie te respetara. Solo tu tienes el derecho de decir “si” o “no” con relación a tu cuerpo. Eres la dueña de tu ser. Amate mucho!”
“When you feel confused and overwhelmed, feeling the weight of your responsibilities; that is the moment to make time for you. Time alone, with your thoughts, heals your soul. Think of your achievements and also your mistakes...You’ll see that the answer will be inside you.”

“Esas veces que te encuentras confundida y agobiada por el peso de tus responsabilidades, son las veces en que tienes que sacar tiempo para ti. Estar sola con tu pensamiento es tiempo para sanar. Reflexiona en tus logros y también en tus errores...veras que la respuesta estará en ti misma.”

“Perdida en mi pensamiento”  
Acrylic on canvas  
23” x 53”  
2008

“Women: the work or art, “Territorios” means the body of the woman, the city and the battles we fight every day. These territories represent the routes of hope and new borders that have yet to be discovered and dreamed about. The infinite is ours.”

“Mujer: La obra “Territorios” hace referencia al cuerpo de la mujer, la ciudad y las batallas que libramos cada día. Esas son las rutas de esperanzas y líneas hacia nuevas fronteras, por descubrir y soñar. El infinito es nuestro!”
“Reconcile with your self, you were created perfect, everything you need is within you. There is no need to impress anyone in order for them to love or accept you. You do not have to change anything about your body; love what you are and this will make you a free woman.”

“Reconcíliate contigo misma, fuiste creada perfecta, todo lo que necesitas está dentro de ti. No necesario impresionar a nadie para que te amen o te acepten. No tienes que cambiar nada sobre tu cuerpo, ama lo que eres y esto te hará una mujer libre.”

“Woman; How do you survive when you are going through unexpected rapid changes? As larva goes through its metamorphosis to fly high as a butterfly the moment to reinvent your self will arrive. Make an inventory of your life thus far. Restate your ideas, beyond your fears ... Transform. The life you have is your choice. Consciously choose wisely and honestly. Choose to be happy ... because only you can do it for yourself.”

“Mujer; ¿Como sobrevives cuando estás atravesando cambios bruscos e inesperados? Como una larva que atraviesa una metamorfosis para volar alto siendo mariposa llega el momento de reinventarte. Haz un inventario de tu vida hasta ahora. Replantea tus ideas, supera tus miedos...transfórmate. La vida que tienes es tu elección. Elige conscientemente con sabiduría y honestidad. Elige ser feliz...porque solo tú puedes hacerlo POR TI.”
“Every woman can realize her dreams; she can be a great artist”.

“Toda mujer puede lograr sus sueños. Se puede llegar a ser una gran artista”.

MARILIN RIVERA HERNANDEZ PR

“Mujer”
Medio mixto
10 “x 12”
2014

JESSICA K ROSENBERG STT

“Guardian 3”
Ceramic
13.25” x 9” x 3”
2012

“Try to discover what you’re most passionate about, what allows your creativity to flourish, and work really hard expressing yourself through that. Nature provides a plethora of inspiration to draw upon: color, light, sound, smell, and texture. Use nature as one of your tools. Passion + Hard work + Creative flow = Happiness”

“Trata de descubrir lo que más te apasione, lo que permite que tu creatividad florezca, y trabaja duro para expresarte. La naturaleza proporciona una gran cantidad de inspiración para aprovechar: el color, la luz, el sonido, el olor, la textura. Utiliza la naturaleza como una de tus herramientas. Pasión + Trabajo duro + flujo creativo = Felicidad.”
“Rise up and not with numbers or your weight, or size, or bank account. Rise up! In knowledge, in value, desires, in anxieties, look at you, not with the eyes of the world but look at you with your eyes that are my eyes and always in you will I see your greatness.”

“Engrandécete y no con números, ni tu peso, ni tamaño, ni cuenta de banco. Engrandécete! en conocimiento, en valor, en ganas, en ansias, en deseos, mirate, no con los ojos del mundo: mirate con tus ojos- que son mis ojos y siempre en ti, verán grandeza.”

“To our youth who because of a social problem find themselves living in the streets. Drug addiction causes a physical deterioration, a process that can end your life and because of it, you will go through a physical and emotional transformation. You will lose your dignity, your self-love, your health, your life and your loved ones. This is an actual social problem and those who are passing through this experience can even kill to get what their bodies crave and even die from it. Girls, there are always other paths to choose.”

“Dialogo a nuestras jóvenes que por una razón social se encuentran viviendo en las calles; un deterioro físico por causa de la droga adicción. Esta situación es un proceso que termina con ellas. Es una transformación física y emocional. Pierden la dignidad, el amor propio, la salud, la vida y a seres queridos. Es un problema social actual, que los que pasan por ese proceso, pueden llegar a matar para conseguir lo que su cuerpo necesita aunque al final del camino puedan llegar a la muerte. Chicas Siempre hay otros caminos para cambiar.”
“Women are natural creators. We have had to struggle extra hard to be allowed to create art that is taken seriously. But we persevere and create, sometimes in secret. Hold on to your creativity and it will shine through.”

“Las mujeres son creadores naturales. Hemos tenido que luchar muy duro para que nos permitiera crear arte que se tomará en serio. Pero perseveramos y creamos a veces en secreto. Aférrate a tu creatividad y brillaras por sí misma.”

“Be brave; be obsessive, if this is what you want to do. Take the time to really acquire skills and hone your craft so it can say what’s in your head or your heart, don’t just talk about it.”

“Toma tu tiempo para adquirir tus habilidades reales y para perfeccionarte en tu arte para que puedas representar lo que está en tu cabeza y en tu corazón.”
“Us WOMEN artists, need to be taken seriously; we have “to take the bull by the horns” and reclaim our artistic rights by collaborating in exhibitions like this one in which this particular group of Women team up.”

“Nosotras las MUJERES artistas, seriamente tenemos que “agarrar el toro por los cuernos” y reclamar nuestro derecho artístico colaborando en exhibiciones como esta, en la que este particular grupo de mujeres dijeron presente.”

“Remember who you are, your sound, your odor, your color, your internal and external beauty. It’s all about you and how you project yourself. Reconnect and share of yourself with your Feminine and maternal sides - the creation of the “Pachamama”, welcome her and “be”.

“Recuerda quien eres, tu sonido, tu olor, tu color, tu belleza, tanto interna como externa. Se trata de ti, de como te proyectas, desde tu propio ser. Reconócete a ti misma y comparte desde tu autenticidad con tu comunidad elegida, se tú. En ti sólo se va a manifestar la feminidad, maternidad y la creación de la Pachamama, dale la bienvenida y “Sé.”
"Your photograph when you were young, hangs on the wall in front of the couch, in the village house. Your father died; the post-war shortages; you were two or three years old when you were living with your uncles; "you will not miss anything". Each red line, every time -- mother that you could not call her; to say: "mother, mother, mother". Now my children learn to read "my-mo-ther- lov-es-me..." (mi-ma-ma-me-a-ma’). There is pain and fear, mother, how long this will last."

"Tu fotografía, de joven, cuelga de la pared delante del sofá de la casa del pueblo. Tu padre murió; las carencias de posguerra; tenías dos o tres años y te llevaron a vivir con unos tíos, "no le faltará de nada". Cada línea roja, todas las veces -mamá- que no pudiste llamarla, decir "mamá, mamá, mamá". Ahora mis hijos aprenden a leer "mi-ma-má-me-a-ma". Hay dolor y miedo, mamá, cuánto durará esto."

"There are women who give the impression of being lone flowers but they are not."

"Hay mujeres que dan la impresión de ser amapolas solas, pero no."
“To cure the maternal feminism, cure the relationship with our mother is essential, fundamental. If we attain this, we will be able to learn how to be mothers in a healthier way. Our mothers could not give us what was denied to them. We need to process and accept this in order to later forgive them; this is a liberating process that will transform our lives for the better.”

“Para sanar lo femenino materno, sanar la relación con nuestra madre es fundamental. Si lo conseguimos seremos madres de una manera más consciente y saludable. Nuestras madres no nos pudieron dar lo que para ellas fue negado. Procesar y aceptar esto para después perdonar es un proceso liberador que transformará nuestras vidas.”

“Women need to resist growing invisible. That voice which is unique needs to flourish and find its place in the world. The self in a culture of care giving often becomes insecure. You must instead always be carving out bits of space, time and attention for it. Only by culling, cultivating and appreciating your own talent, does it become visible to others.”

“Las mujeres tienen que resistir la creciente invisible. Esa voz que es única tiene que florecer y encontrar su lugar en el mundo. El ser en una cultura de prestación de cuidados, a menudo se vuelve inseguro. En su lugar, siempre debes forjar pedazos de espacio, tiempo y la atención por ellos. Sólo mediante tu sacrificio por cultivar y apreciar tu talento, serás visible para los demás.”
“Life is about change. Your immortality lies in who you are and what you do, not in what you own. Love and forgiveness, are essential components for contentment.”

“La vida cambia. Tu inmortalidad reside en lo que eres y lo que haces, no en lo que tienes. El amor y el perdón, son componentes esenciales para la alegría.”

“Strength”
Mixed Medium
(photographic images and acrylic paint)
2014
31” x 43” (framed)

“I am in awe of you and so very proud to be one of you. Whether you have accomplished something spectacular like winning the Nobel Prize or simply managed to juggle a job, raising children, and keeping the house in order, I applaud you. Your strength and stamina are what holds the world together. Thank you, women of the world, for continuing, without fuss or fanfare, to do all the miraculous things that you do.”

“Estoy en admiración de ti y muy orgulloso de ser una de ustedes. Ya sea que ustedes han logrado algo espectacular como ganar el Premio Nobel o simplemente lograr hacer las malabares de un trabajo, criar a los hijos y mantener la casa en orden, te aplaudo. Su fuerza y resistencia son lo que mantienen a nuestro mundo unido.”

Gracias, mujeres del mundo, por continuar, sin aspavientos ni estridencias, por hacer todas las cosas milagrosas que hacen.”
“My word of advice to other women: Be curious. Only through your curiosity can you seek to find what you don’t know.”

“Si quieres ver las cosas que nunca has visto, haz las cosas que nunca has hecho”.

“I am thinking of what I would tell my daughter if I had to anoint her with one sentence. I would say, “Anna. Be strong, be bold, intelligent, worldly, empathetic and loving...live your life, run your life, know who you are and be free. I love you, Mom.”

“Estoy pensando en lo que le diría a mi hija si tuviera que ungirla con una sola frase. Le diría, “Anna, sé fuerte, sé audaz, inteligente, mundana, empática y amorosa... vive tu vida, corre tu vida, sabes quién eres; sé libre. Te quiero, mamá.”
Alscess Lewis-Brown is an adjunct professor of English at the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Croix and the editor of The Caribbean Writer; an international literary journal published annually by the University of the Virgin Islands. In her varied career, she is a retired human resources director and labor relations professional of more than 30 years. She is the author of several books for young people and is also a former high school honor’s English teacher.

Advice I would give to a woman: “Identify your purpose. Hitch it to your passion. Push to your goal and stay focused. Mistakes are a normal part of this experience. Learn from them. Give to your community and lend a hand when you can. Don’t let anyone define your space and place. Surround yourself with positive people. Avoid confusion and those who seek to destroy your efforts.”

Emilia Quiñones-Otal is a panelist. She lives and works in Puerto Rico. She holds a PhD in Art History with a concentration on Latin American and Feminist Studies. Emilia studied her doctorate at the University of Valencia, Spain, and as well obtained her degree in Master of Cultural Heritage.

Currently she works as Professor of Art Appreciation and Humanistic Studies at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico at the Barranquitas Campus. She has worked as an independent curator of contemporary art for more than seven years and has published articles and book chapters on the subjects of contemporary feminist art from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Advice I would give to a woman: “Use your voice”.

Consejo que daría a una mujer: “Usen su voz”.
MARISOL TORRUELLA PR  PANELIST

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She began studying art with the teacher, Frank Cervoni in his private studio in Santurce. In 1992 she graduated Magna Cum Laude in painting at the Escuela de Artes Plasticas in San Juan with Domingo Garcia as her teacher and academic mentor. She worked as an art teacher in Puerto Rico, Connecticut and New Jersey. She acquired several awards for her outstanding work as an art teacher. She has exhibited at major museums and galleries in Puerto Rico and in several places in the United States. Currently she teaches art at the “Ruth Hernandez Cultural House” in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

Advice I would give to a woman: “Return to nature and look deep within yourself. Reflection is a great practice. Know that you are wonderfully unique yet part of a whole, not better, not worse. Equal and Valuable.”

CANDIA ATWATER CMCA  FOUNDER

Candia Atwater married at 20, became the mother of 3 children and returned to school at age 30 to get a college degree from SUNY at Old Westbury in Long Island. She graduated in 1977 and started Law School; after having her studies interrupted by illness, Candia resumed work as a law clerk in Chinatown, specializing in immigration law and was admitted to the NY State Bar in 1985. She took a legal position with the NY State Department of Health in Albany. Having visited St. John for over 17 years on family vacations, she decided to move to the Virgin Islands in 1988 and explore new opportunities. She fell in love with St. Croix and was employed by the VI Government as an Asst. Attorney General under Gov. Farrelly, assigned to the Family Division; Paternity and Child Support, until retirement in 2014. Candia felt that the children and families she was working with had no positive or creative forms of expression hence the idea of an arts center formed. In 1994 Candia produced the first Island Art and Soul Calendar as a fundraising tool for the future arts center which grew into the present Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts at 10 Strand Street and 62 King Street, a dream come true.

Advice I would give to a woman: “Don’t listen to anything negative, find someone who understands what you want, and speak with them. Everyone, especially women, need to have a circle of friends who are intelligent, possess common sense and have struggled to find out who they are, and what they want.”
“Women to Women, Island to Island; de Mujer a Mujer, de Isla a Isla, un dialogo...” Conmemoramos con éste colectivo de arte por mujeres, nuestra amistad y vínculos con las Islas Vírgenes y Puerto Rico.

En nombre del Club de Fotos y Artes Plásticas (CFAP), el Museo de la Mujer en Puerto Rico (MMPR), y de todas las Artistas y profesionales quienes participamos en este colectivo y mesa redonda, le brindamos nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a la junta y personal del “Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts”.

Esta es una gran oportunidad de traer por primera vez al museo, un colectivo de Arte de mujeres, quienes presentamos variados medios artísticos con un concepto de diálogo. Aquí cada artista además de su creación artística, brinda a otra mujer un consejo, una declaración, una idea compartida y habla con la voz de experiencia. Presentamos la historia de mujeres luchadoras, de pueblos que reclaman justicias, de obras que reflejan los tiempos de la esclavitud u otros temas que nos muestran que nuestra lucha es constante en el mundo de la mujer, el arte y nuestra sociedad. Artistas de Puerto Rico, las Islas Vírgenes e internacionales nos unimos en este colectivo para crear conciencia sobre la necesidad de levantar espacios que honren nuestras luchas. El concepto, serie, secuela de nuestras exposiciones “Mujeres Distintas Formas, Distintos Medios” se han elaborado desde 1996 con la intención de atraer y de crear conciencia sobre un espacio permanente que desde el año 2003 venimos anunciando: MUSEO DE LA MUJER EN PR.

Le dedicamos esta muestra y a quien hace 20 años levantó este Centro de Arte & Museo, a la señora Candia Atwater. Nos sentimos muy en casa con estas paredes condecoradas con nuestra producción artística e histórica. Reitero que cada una de estas obras tiene su historia, su legado, su misión y visión de lucha.

Reconozco a la colega Janet Cook-Rutnik, una mujer Guerrilla quien dio el 100 por ciento de su tiempo para ayudarme organizar esta muestra. Ella al igual que esta servidora, estamos unidas con los esfuerzos que cada mujer. El trabajo es arduo y no termina en una sola muestra, sino que nuestro diálogo es un llamado de todas y todos para seguir con los esfuerzos y vencer los obstáculos que nos mantienen muchas veces separados. En momentos como hoy, se forman alianzas entre diversas organizaciones, cada una buscando alumbrar mejores caminos que nos ayuden a reclamar las justicias que por muchos siglos nos han dejado atrás o sin nuestro debido reconocimiento. A las Guerrilla Girls quienes nos han apoyado en este proyecto, le agradecemos especialmente por seguir con los pasos de conseguir la igualdad y reconocimiento de mujeres quienes no fueron reconocidas por sus obras artísticas; no solo en el arte, sino en todos los sentidos de la acción. Mujeres Distintas y de Mujer a Mujer, de Isla a Isla, las batallas siguen.

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