

## Carla Armour

B. 1966 in Dominica, Eastern Caribbean. Lives & works in Dominica & England



### Artist Statement

***"I make art because it requires being fully present and creates space for investigation, resolve and hope."***

"Essentially, I am a 'process painter'. To begin, they come out of meditations with colour as a usual starting point. Then raw play allows for intuitive gestures that are automatically formed from my memoried iconography and gentle observation. ... the emotional and visual vibrations, rhythms, and movement layered colours generate energize the work. Then I am guided by these and the shapes and spaces in front of me, and I 'feel' what to do next. *The final and longest stages of my paintings are at the end, like a gestational period, then, I let go.*"

### Artist Biography

Carla Armour is a multi-media Conceptual Artist & Painter, Curator and Creativity Coach. She lives and works between the eastern Caribbean island, Dominica and the English seaside city of Brighton & Hove. After graduating from Parsons School of Design, her first venture on her return in 1988 was to revisit the local artist scene and curated a group exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Dominica's leading artists, in which she also participated. Over the past 35+ years Armour has participated in collaborations and group exhibitions in many islands in the Caribbean, in the US, UK, Europe and Namibia (Southern Africa).

Her current work takes a multimedia approach to delve more deeply into shared interactive space, color relationships, and effects, while also incorporating ritualistic elements. Her pieces aim to evoke emotions such as recognition, remembrance, redemption, and resolve. To further enrich the experience of the installation space, some of her exhibitions feature her "Sharing Space - Collecting Receipts" and "Throwing Shadows" installations, which encourage immersive and collaborative sharing between artists and visitors' lived experiences.

While social and political commentary are suggested in her work, many of her paintings are nonrepresentational, others are pure abstractions. At times she will incorporate suggestions of West African symbols and Kalinago glyph images and markings, poems, Automatic Writing and drawing within layers, all of which include various media like inks, charcoals and pastels, acrylics, oils as well as paper and fabric collage including her signature Hessian (Burlap/Sackcloth). Hints of grids can be found lurking within or on top these layers too, a nod to the 'boxes' women have historically been consigned to,.... in exchange, these cross lines reflect not just the 'weft and the warp' of the tapestries of life but also the maturity, calm and order women infuse into our chaotic world.

In 2018 **with Hurricane Maria as her muse**, she literally resurfaced to have her work selected for a group show by curator, the late Donna Mason, held at the **Strand Center for the Arts in Plattsburgh New York** (March 2018), a Post Hurricane Maria exhibition curated by the late Donna Mason, entitled **'Here Comes the Sun'**. The following year, she **installed 'STILL Waters – Dominica'** (August) and **'Still Waters - London'** (November). These were her first solo shows in years which were multi-media, multi-disciplinary and fully immersive. The shows used paintings, sculptural pieces, mobiles, installation and 'Sharing Space' to offer the highly emotive and interactive environments that spoke to the journey of experiencing and overcoming displacement and trauma.



Most recently, Armour has also exhibited her paintings and performed her poetry at 3 of the most recent **Caribbean Fine Arts Fairs in Barbados**, first attending in March 2017. Some of the most notable shows Armour has done so far are; **'High Noon'** a group exhibition at the Iris Dangleben Gallery in Dominica (1996), what was seen as a turning point in Fine Art Scene at the time, The International Art Project **'Women of the World, a Global Collection of Art'** (1998), an International Artist Exchange, **'Carambolage'** (1998) with 8 artists from Austria and Dominica, a solo exhibition at the **National Art Gallery of Namibia** (2006), Paintings Commissioned and poetry readings for The Nature Island Literary Festival (2008), and the UK based project **'Wheel 'n Come Again'** (over 6 months in 2016); a dynamic Film & Arts program managed by Legacy Film UK for which exhibitions and events venues included Onca Gallery, Hastings Arts Forum and culminating in a 2 day program at **Fabrica**, Brighton in December 2016.

She was considered an instigator and collaborator of **'Dominica's Artistic Renaissance'** in the 90's when she owned Caribana 100% Dominican Craft Store (a local institution previously owned by her grandmother for 50+ years) and opened the Iris Dangleben Gallery within it. Fully immersed in Dominica's Cultural scene, Carla's work gained regional and international recognition with invitations to participate in a number of exhibitions.

Even back then, her work challenged and innovated what was considered 'Art' on the local Dominican scene with the inclusion of Abstract & Symbolic Paintings and small installations. Carla also designed and launched Fashion Collections, and was a regular and award-winning Poet and spoken word performer. Pieces from Armour's Lifelines series, employing tribal symbols, hints of a spiralling collapsed DNA helix and prehistoric glyph images and markings were collected internationally. Elements that still continue to influence and inspire her work.

Armour's work is in **private and public collections across the world** from Namibia to, Europe, the US and the Caribbean. She continues to show at fairs and curated shows in the Caribbean and the US.

Carla is eternally inspired by the works and processes of many artists like Louise Bourgeois, Mark Rothko, and Georgia O'Keefe for their emotive and sensorial work. Influences of other movements and artists such as Josef and Anni Albers, Hilma af Klint, Albers, Sonia Delaunay, and the impressionist for their use and treatment of colour and symbolism for emotive and spiritual integration are evident in her work. Social commentators, performance and Installation Artists Hew Locke, Carol Walker, Theaster Gates, and Marina Abramovic are also some who really interest and influence Carla.



## Artist Resumé – Carla Armour

Born in Dominica in 1966

Lives and works in Dominica and South East, England

- 2023 Inaugural Installation at **Vetivert Contemporary Fine Art Gallery.**  
at Lacou Restaurant & Private Dining Room, Melrose House, Roseau, **Dominica.**
- 2023 **Caribbean Fine Art FAIR (CAFA) 2023** – Curated the paintings and photographs of the Dominica contingent of which she was an exhibiting artist, with some recent paintings.  
Poetry Reading during the event and moderated a Panel Discussion on ‘**Love, Loss & Legacy**’ – Using the late Earl Darius Etienne as a case study to discuss how an artist Legacy is preserved.  
Bagnall’s Point Gallery, Pelican Village, Bridgetown. **Barbados**
- 2022 **Caribbean Fine Art FAIR (CAFA)** - (Group show) Online
- 2021 **"Caribbean & Diaspora Art"** – GROUP Collaboration with Diaspora Now,  
80 St. Nicholas Place, NY, NY. **USA**
- "Connecting The Dots"** - GROUP Exhibition curated by Diaspora Now,  
80 St. Nicholas Place, Suite 1B, NY, NY. **USA**
- 2020 - **Social Reckoning** - Emelek: A tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - GROUP Exhibition  
2021 *"Social Reckoning" taps into the details of what makes the Civil rights Movement part of the history of civilizations and cultural heritage, though, in different approaches by 7 artists who encompass a different set of issues.*  
**Abrazo Interno Gallery** at the Clement Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center, NYC, NY. **USA**
- 2020 **Red Carpet Gallery** - GROUP Collaboration, Contemporary art by 13 Caribbean artists,  
Brooklyn, NY **USA**
- 2020 **10th Caribbean Fine Art FAIR,**  
Courtney Blackman Grand Salle Gallery, Bridgetown, **Barbados**
- 2019 **Contemporary Art & Collectibles** - GROUP Exhibition Miami ART Week.  
The Breakwater curated by Anderson Pilgrim & Daniel Hort. Miami Beach, Florida. **USA**
- 2019 **Solo show – ‘STILL Waters. London’** - SOLO Exhibition. A multimedia Interactive Installation & Paintings Exhibition. The Tabernacle, Nottinghill, London, **England. UK**
- 2019 **‘STILL Waters. Dominica’** - SOLO Exhibition. A multimedia Interactive Installation & Paintings Exhibition. Old Mill Cultural Center, Canefield, **Dominica**
- 2019 **Akwaaba Gallery** - GROUP Exhibition and Artist Talk. Curated by Anderson Pilgrim of Diaspora Now. Newark, New Jersey, **USA**
- 2018 **ART Basel MIAMI** Fringe event – ‘Contemporary Art & Collectibles’ - GROUP Exhibition  
The Breakwater curated by Anderson Pilgrim. Miami Beach, Florida, **USA**
- 2018 **National Independence** Exhibition – GROUP Exhibition.  
Old Mill Cultural Center, Canefield, **Dominica**
- 2018 **Red Hook Open Studios** - GROUP Collaboration. Pioneer Works, Brooklyn  
Curated by Donna Mason. Brooklyn, NYC, **USA**
- 2018 **‘Escapades’** – GROUP Exhibition, Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition,  
Salon Gallery, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NYC, **USA**
- 2018 **‘After Maria’** - GROUP Exhibition, Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition,  
Salon Gallery, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NYC, **USA**
- 2018 **Vetivert Gallery** GROUP Exhibition, Roseau, **Dominica**



- 2018 **Here Comes the Sun.** GROUP Collaboration - Strand Center for the Arts, Plattsburg, New York, **USA**
- 2017 **Caribbean Fine Art FAIR**, Bridgetown, **Barbados**
- 2016 **'Wheel 'n Come Again'** – GROUP Project Collaboration. Participated *with an Interactive Installation & Performance piece of Spoken Word and an exhibition of paintings* at Fabrica, Brighton, East Sussex, **England, UK**
- 2016 **'Wheel 'n Come Again'** - GROUP Project Collaboration. Exhibited Paintings. Artist Talk and Poetry readings at Hastings Arts Forum Gallery, Hastings, East Sussex, **England, UK**
- 2008 **National Literary Festival** - GROUP Collaboration. Pieces based on the novel *'Unburnable'*. UWI Open Campus, Roseau, **Dominica**
- 2006 **Emancipation** Exhibition, Old Mill Cultural Centre, **Dominica**
- 2006 **DOMFESTA** Exhibition, Old Mill Cultural Centre, **Dominica**
- 2006 **Reconnaissance. (Solo Exhibition)** Opening Address by Dr. Claudia Harvey, UNESCO Ambassador to the Southern African Countries. Exhibited a new body of 28 paintings and Performance of new poems on opening night. National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek, **Namibia**
- 2005 **Light and Shadow** – GROUP Exhibition. A Workshop Exhibition with German Artist Erika Krause, National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek, **Namibia**
- 2000/05 Invited to represent Dominica in the **"Women of the World"** GROUP Project. A Global Collection of Art. A Traveling Exhibition with 174 Women representing 174 countries, **GLOBAL**
- 1999/2000 **"The Urban Life in the Caribbean Region"** - GROUP Project Collaboration. A traveling exhibition organized by the Cariforum Cultural Center. Represented Dominica with 4 other artists, **Caribbean-wide.**
- 1999 **National Independence Art Exhibition.** Old Mill Cultural Centre, **Dominica**
- 1998 **Group Exhibition**, Bay Gardens Hotel, **Saint Lucia**
- 1998 **"Carambolage"** - GROUP Exhibition as part of an Artists Exchange Project.  
Co-Organizer and participating artist with 4 artists from each country Roseau, Dominica and Vienna, Kunste Hall, **Austria**
- 1998 **"Connections"** – series w/ E.A. Toulon, Fort Young Hotel, **Dominica**
- 1998 **Carambolage** Bon Voyage Exhibition with Etienne, Toulon & Nassief. Iris Dangleben Gallery, **Dominica**
- 1997 **St. Lucia Jazz Festival** GROUP exhibition with Caribbean Artists. Modern Art Gallery, **Saint Lucia**
- 1997 **'National Expo Art Exhibition'** – **GROUP Exhibition.** *Installation "Me no call no Foul."* Government State House of Dominica, Roseau, **Dominica**
- 1997 **DOMFESTA** National Art Exhibition – **GROUP Exhibition**, Government State House of Dominica, Roseau, **Dominica**
- National Independence Art Exhibition** – GROUP Exhibition, Gallery #4, Roseau, **Dominica**
- 1996 **"Remp Arts"** An International Art Exhibition- GROUP Exhibition. Paintings and Performance Poetry. Townhall of Langres. **France**
- 1996 **DOMFESTA** Art Exhibition – GROUP Exhibition. Fort Young Hotel, Roseau, **Dominica**
- "Our National Heritage"** National Independence Art Exhibition 1996 – (Group Show) Gallery # 4, Roseau, **Dominica**



- 1996 **“High Noon”** – GROUP Exhibition. Participating Artists: Carla Armour (Dominica), Arnold Toulon (Saint Lucia), Karla Trummer (Austria) and Andrew Manley (UK)  
Iris Dangleben Gallery, Roseau, **Dominica**
- 1995 **‘DOMFESTA’ ART EXHIBITION 1995** - A celebration of Dominica’s Emerging Artists’ - GROUP Exhibition.  
Iris Dangleben Gallery, Roseau, **Dominica**
- 1995 **“What is an Artist - An Awakening”** - GROUP Exhibition.  
Arts Guild of Dominica, Iris Dangleben Gallery, Roseau, **Dominica**
- 1988 **Reunion ’88 Art Exhibition** (Group Show of Dominica’s New & Emerging Artists)  
Anchorage Hotel, **Dominica**
- Institutional Collections Permanent Collection - **National Art Gallery of Namibia**, Windhoek, **Namibia**  
Permanent Collection - **National Cultural Council** at the Old Mill Art Cultural Center,  
Canefield, **Dominica**

