

## ABSTRACT

### **An Analysis of the Work of Donald ‘Jackie’ Hinkson**

**Shalini L. Singh**

A study based on the analysis of the work of Donald ‘Jackie’ Hinkson is not only informative but it provides critical material for art historians, artists, art students and art enthusiasts. Indeed, the paucity of material available on the history of Trinidadian artists, reasserts the need for proper documentation on local artists. As the literature review reveals, very little has been recorded on the work of the aforementioned artist and consequently, on the history of art in Trinidad and Tobago.

A dedicated and diligent artist, Hinkson exhibits both locally and internationally but still enjoys minimal recognition on the home-front. While several newspaper articles pay homage to the artist, they are mostly superficial in content, as they convey information on his exhibits, rather than demonstrate any depth of knowledge or expertise in critiquing the complexity of his oeuvre.

This study demonstrates Hinkson’s ability to capture the evolving physical and social landscape of the Caribbean and discusses the early life of the artist and its impact on his significant body of work. Hinkson’s versatility is evident from his ability to master the very difficult watercolour medium, in order to capture the islands’ ever-changing weather. In addition, this study analyses Hinkson’s evolution of form which conveys symbolic meanings indigenous to his Caribbean culture. He exhibits great adaptability through experimentation with a variety of media such as, drawing pencil, ink and wash, charcoal, conté crayon, pastel, watercolours, oil paints, acrylics, wood, plexi glass, concrete and aluminium sheeting.

The researcher conducted a comparative analysis between Hinkson and his compatriots, local, regional and international, past and present. In a quest for consistency and plausibility, the study also relies on data collected from interviews with Hinkson, his family and associates.

Hinkson makes bold, emphatic statements in order to inculcate self-reflection in the viewing public. A study of this nature is necessary to maintain historical records.

**Keywords:** Donald ‘Jackie’ Hinkson; Shalini L. Singh; art; artists; Caribbean; Trinidad and Tobago; media; comparative analysis; self-reflection; historical records.