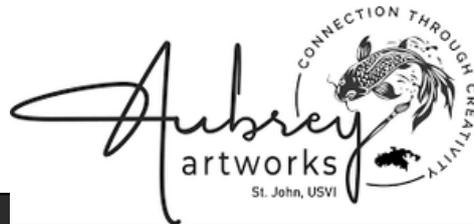


AUBREY ARTWORKS PRESENTS: THE ART SPEAKEASY

A Celebration of Women Artists

March 26th, 2026 - Mooie's, St. John



There was a time when women's creativity lived behind closed doors.

For centuries, women were discouraged—or outright forbidden—from exhibiting their work publicly. Their art was shared quietly in parlors, private salons, and intimate gatherings. Some created anonymously. Others worked under male pseudonyms. Their brilliance existed, but the world was not always ready to see it.

The Art Speakeasy draws inspiration from those hidden creative circles.

Just as underground speakeasies once offered spaces for expression and gathering during times of restriction, this exhibition reclaims the idea of a discreet artistic salon—only now, the doors are open.

Presented by Aubrey Artworks, this exhibition features the work of several contemporary women artists whose practices span painting, mixed media, stained glass, photography, pottery, and printmaking. Their work is vibrant, fearless, and deeply reflective of the times we are living in.

In a moment in history when women's rights and bodily autonomy are once again under debate around the world, this gathering becomes more than an art show. It is an affirmation.

These artists do not create quietly.

They create boldly.

They create visibly.

They create now.

The Art Speakeasy celebrates the power of women shaping culture, telling their stories, and holding space for beauty, resistance, and joy.

Join us for an evening honoring creativity, community, and the enduring voice of women in the arts.

THE ARTISTS

Iyansa Perez

Sarah Swan

Gail Karlsson

Ellen Graubert

Gail Van de Bogurt

Viki Brown

Erin Lee

Sara Lee Hayes

Theodora Moorehead

Doba Afolabi

Lenyse Shomo

Khaleila Krall

Iyansa Perez

Milenys Viera Pérez, better known as IYansa, is a Puerto Rican artist and educator whose work reflects her curiosity and adventurous spirit. With a focus on magical realism, she tells stories through painting, drawing, photography, writing, and sound—recognizing that there's a symbiosis between art forms and that they tend to have a stronger impact when combined. Born on November 1st, 1999, her early years were spent in Canóvanas, where she first sang to the sounds of her grandfather's guitar, learned to sew with awela, and flipped through her mother's fashion drawings. A great portion of her creative influence has come from having lived in Georgia, USA, where she had the opportunity to begin developing her craft.

After coming of age, she returned to the Caribbean and has since lived in St. Thomas, VI and Barbados, where she began expanding her practice by screen printing on textiles and experimenting with natural materials. Creative Development, a class she has been teaching virtually since 2022 via Kamali Academy, helps black children to develop their art skills and knowledge through studies of artifacts. Iyansa is currently based in Kingston, Jamaica. Her most beloved interests include permaculture, free-diving, collecting natural relics, researching music, and finding vintage photographs of people wearing traditional textiles and jewelry.

Value & Substance

Oil on cotton canvas

24 x 30 inches

\$4,600

The meeting of gold and diamonds—
a dance between two substances—
destined for each other.

Cuando La Vida Te Da Café

Oil on cotton canvas

24 x 36 inches

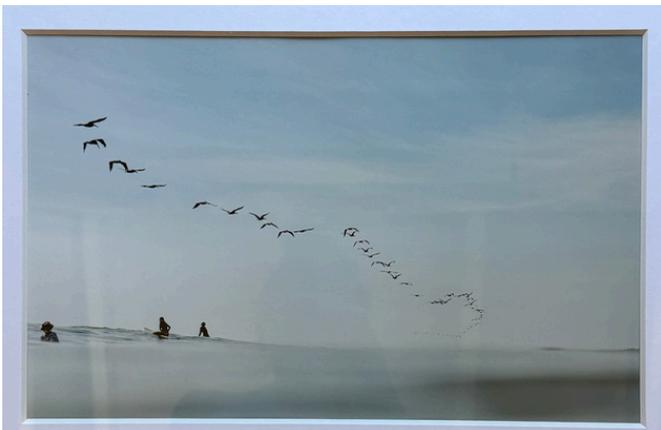
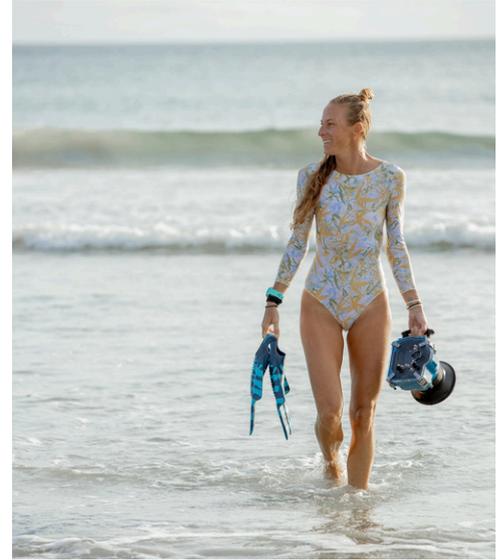
\$5,600

A representation of the feelings
evoked by coffee and its ever-
fleeting high.

Being a Caribbean woman means that my work is as varied as the story of our region and that of the journey of our ancestors. I am a cross-cultural medium; a bridge between communities with similar pasts and shared goals. The presence of ancient practices and items within contemporary art helps to preserve what some have cast aside in the name of human evolution and technological advancements. It is my aim to honor the power of the natural elements and carry on the legacy of ingenuity birthed by indigenous nations. May the work of the collective preserve our dignity by making our identity evident even through modern means.

Sarah Swan

Born and raised on St. John. I have been bound to the ocean my entire life. I have a profound love for water, adventure, and lifestyle photography. Capturing the raw emotions, natural light and all the laughter and love in-between. The Ocean is my inspiration for life. The sense of adventure, strength, fear, and peace the ocean incites in me drives my creativity to share these feelings with others. Creativity that has a purpose. I want to capture and share our collective experiences while encouraging consciousness at the same time. I reckon myself more than a photographer, but also a storyteller, with the mission to respect and restore the beauty that surrounds us.



Pelicans

20 x 16 matted with white frame

\$475

Golden

20 x 16 matted with white frame

\$475



Flying

20 x 16 matted with white frame

\$475



Gail Karlsson

Gail Karlsson is a nature writer and photographer. She is a Virgin Islands Source columnist and the author of two photo books about the Virgin Islands: *Looking for Birds on St. John*; and *Learning About Trees and Plants - A Project of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. John*, as well as a memoir *The Wild Life in an Island House*.



Contact:

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Ellen Graubart

Ellen Graubart was born in Bombay in 1939 of American parents; she lived for a short time in Colombia and then was brought up in Virginia, U.S.A. She came to London in 1957 and studied painting and theatre design at the Regent Street Polytechnic School of Art (which was later amalgamated with the Chelsea School of Art). She took the National Diploma in Design (painting special) in 1962. She later studied printmaking under Adrian Bartlett and Frank Connelly at Morley College, London.

From 1967 to 1970 Graubart designed and made sets and costumes, props and projection transparencies for Focus Opera, a small music opera group, which had its inaugural performance as a participant in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1976 she designed and made the sets and costumes for the world premiere of Elisabeth Lutyens' opera "Isis and Osiris" at Morley College.

From 1970 to 1978 she performed as mime-dancer in several productions of music-theatre pieces, including the world premiere of Nicola LeFanu's "Anti-World", a music theatre piece for 5 musicians and a mime (the mime part was written for her), at the Cockpit Theatre in London, and at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, also in London. In 1983 Graubart joined the Greenwich Printmakers Association, an artists' co-operative which shares and runs a gallery in Greenwich London, while also showing in galleries elsewhere.

In 1984 she joined the Printmakers Council. Her etchings and collagraphs have been exhibited in many galleries in England, Scotland, the U.S.A. and Canada. She sold her printing press in the early nineties after having decided to concentrate on painting.

Having always been interested in geometric and grid patterns, and after having analysed the underlying geometric structures of other artists' work (and her own work) she decided to explore the relationship between the content and the abstract structure of a painting, how the two aspects working with and/or against each other could create a tension, a sort of dance, or drama.

This led to the idea of making paintings that would be about tension created between the content and abstract structure of a painting, a sort of dance, or drama, with the two aspects working with and/or against each other. She found that each new painting presented new and different problems to solve, making it possible to avoid the process becoming formulaic. She experimented with by starting with geometric patterns or grids, imposing them onto organic forms, and then working the other way around: by analysing geometric patterns in the organic forms themselves, then working from there as a starting point.

She moved to Brighton in 2020 (during the Covid 19 pandemic) and set up her studio in Kemptown east Brighton, near the sea.

She has recently expanded the scope of her work, using mixed media and making three-dimensional pieces, including a series of masks. Graubart's work is varied in content and style, with colour being a major element.

Graubart has shown her work in galleries in London and other parts of the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, the former USSR and the Virgin Islands. Her work is also in private collections throughout Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and Japan.

Ellen Graubart

Limited Edition: A series of assorted etchings

5x7 etchings: \$75.00

8x 8 inches: \$40

8 x 10 inches

Apples & Oranges: \$80.00

Homo Sapiens: \$95.00

Imperfect Love: \$95.00

Shade Seekers: \$175.00

Toad and Arumlilly: \$75.00

14 x 18 inches: \$200.00

Before the regrets

Brief encounter

Serious Dancers

In Love

A pregnant centaur

Unguarded Nest



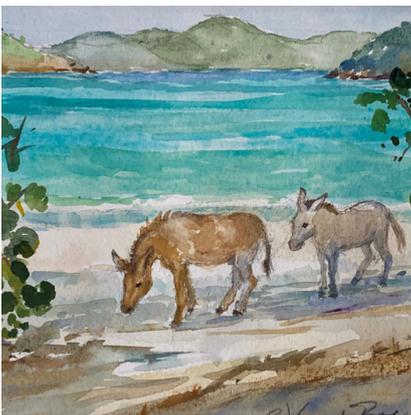
Gail Van de Bogurt

Arriving by sail in 1989, Gail has made St John her permanent home. She put down roots in this small island community and is continuing to love and learn about its culture and history. She remains focused on pursuing her art and encouraging others to do the same. She was one of the original co-founders, in 1993, of Bajo el Sol Gallery at Mongoose Junction, which has become wonderful showcase for regional artists now guided and owned by Priscilla Hintz and David Knight. Until the hurricanes of 2017 she was one of the Resident Artists showing and teaching watercolors at Caneel Bay Resort.

Over the years Gail has explored a variety of clays and kiln firing techniques in her ceramic work: wood, salt, vegetable oil, pit firing. She spent ten years developing a ceramic arts program at Maho Bay Camps with a focus on developing sustainable ceramic technologies. In 2013 she partnered with potter and friend Casey Giakas to create St John VI Pottery Studio and Gallery in Coral Bay where both visitors and locals can come to be creative with clay, located on rte 107 very near the intersection of rte 10. She currently offers classes in ceramics and watercolor painting .
"To be able to follow my "muse" is a privilege. It helps to have an obsessive nature and a stubborn streak! I am grateful to those who have included my work in their homes and who have taken classes from me. To create is a naturally human activity and one that I feel has immense value over and above the actual objects being created. I love finding ways to express the outrageous beauty that I see on this small, fragile island."

"Clay and Watercolor have in common the element : Water. I am intrigued by the way that varying degrees of water dictate the behavior of the clay . It also gives watercolor paints their ability to flow on paper. Its all about the water! It surrounds us on an island, but on a boat it can carry u s to other islands...other worlds!"

Her work may be seen on St John at St John VI Pottery in Coral Bay.



Matted original watercolors

11 x 12 inches

\$150 each

"Donkeys cinnamon bay winter 2025"

"Cinnamon view to whistling cay: winter waves"

"Flight of the Frigates"

Three Views Pitcher +

Tumblers: \$525.

Stoneware, original hand
thrown with slip paintings .

Viki Brown

I seek to portray my dreams with rich color to bring my viewers in for a peek inside.

My artwork is an invitation into my dream realm, where the beauty of this world melds with my imagination and spirit. Layers of rich oils are applied over acrylic. Dynamic textures are explored through etching to bring my visions to life.

Recreating a moment in time becomes a shared feeling for the observer. The endless subjects provide me with tools that ignite my drive.

Drunk Bay
Acrylic on paper
Framed
20x24"
\$2800

Fish Eye View
Acrylic and oil on canvas
Unframed
3'x3'
\$4800



Erin Lieb

Erin has been doing some form of art ever since she can remember. She dove into the world of watercolor during covid. Keeping herself busy with too many hobbies and interests, for her day job, she is a licensed architect working for Barefoot Design Group on St. John. Erin has wanderlust in her soul and has called St. John home for over 11 years.

Erin will be showing a mix of affordable prints, original watercolor paintings, cards, and bags with my art on them.

Contact:

<https://erin-lieb.pixels.com>



Each image may be purchased as a canvas print, framed print, metal print, and more!

Sara Lee Hayes

Sara Lee Hayes is a self-taught clay artist/potter living on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands for 45 years.

Her pottery training began in 1974 with adult education classes at a local high school, and has continued with books and videos, trial and error, and lots of practice. She is a self-taught clay artist.

Sara has been recognized as a Culture Bearer for the Virgin Islands by the VI Department of Education. As such, she endeavors to bring local culture into much of her work and teaching.

Sara Lee sells her pottery, functional and sculptural, through local stores, at craft shows and at art shows. She supplements her income teaching both children and adults in many settings, and she is often assisted with grant funding from the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts for her community clay projects. She is currently managing the clay studio and teaching classes at the Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts. Her work can be found at Mango Tango on St. Thomas and at Aubrey Artworks pop-up shows on St. John. Along with a former student, she owns and operates Crucian Clayworks in Frederiksted, a shop featuring and promoting art and all works made from clay.

The Jar Series Stoneware



Theodora Moorehead

St. John artist Theodora Moorehead never anticipated receiving the title of “Artist” for producing what she previously labeled as doodles.

Moorehead, the daughter of Genevieve and former Senator Theovald Moorehead , spent her younger years in St. John, Puerto Rico, New York and Virginia. She graduated from City College of New York, where she studied Political Science, Law, English and Communications.

Art is a new venture for Morehead. For years, her primary activities heretofore have been performing in Off-Broadway productions, community activism, playing in local Quelbe bands as a percussionist and as a filmmaker (Our Island, Our Home). In fact, it was only when a close friend, Patricia Da Costa, viewed her “doodlings” and declared her an Artist that Moorehead began to actively pursue this vocation. Da Costa encouraged her to continue developing her craft, which Morehead has pursued.

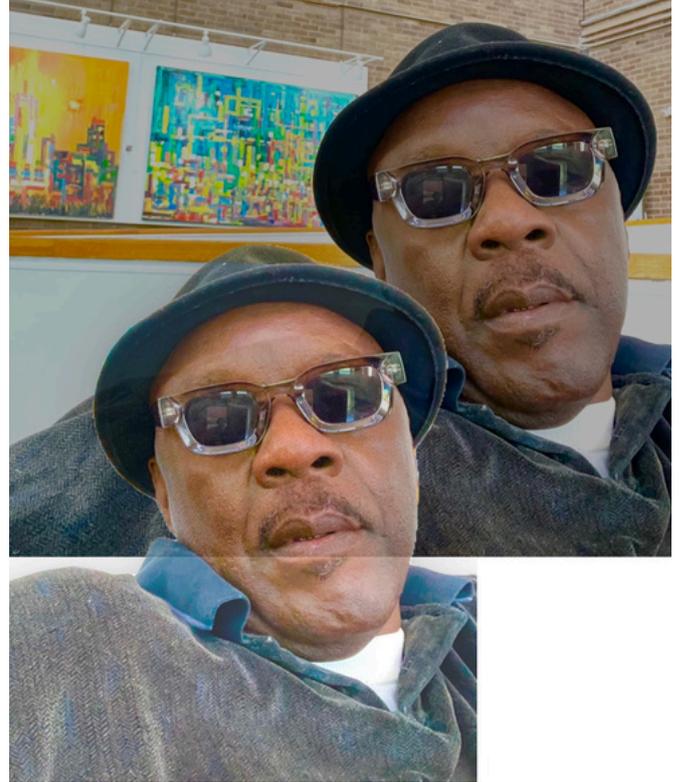
Moorehead has a process in which she conceptualizes shapes by drawing shapes on a blank canvas with her eyes closed. After the initial lines suggest the piece’s final shape, she completes the work by adding patterns, shading and sometimes representational elements including faces and masks, birds and other animals, her signature eyes and other assorted objects.

Her pieces are unnamed so as to allow the viewer to react with each piece to ascertain its personal significance.

Doba Afolabi

Doba Afolabi as he preferred to shorten his African name Adedeji Adedoba Afolabi is an award winning contemporary artist based in Brooklyn with a career timeline spanning over 30 years after his college graduation from Zaria School of Ahmadu Bello University, famous for the art movement "Zaria Rebel" from where renown African contemporary artists like late Grillo and Ben Enwogu were all trained.

Due to the length and depth of Doba Afolabi biography which are all over the internet from press coverage all over the world, summary and highlights of his main achievements may only be pinpointed in areas of his major acquisitions in Corporate and private spots among which Department of Arts and Humanities Washington DC, OneUnited Bank California , The Chi TV, including his ongoing show with the USA Department of States .



Doba Afolabi has shown in major art markets like New York ArtExpo, Frieze, The Hampton New York, Miami Basel and Museums like Met Museum staff show , Museum of African American Long Island New York, Tom Joyner Cruise, Amref International, his work chosen for Basel flier and visitors book at Miami Basel Art of Black Miami, official artist of International African Art Fairs Navy Yard Brooklyn in 2010 while his work is selected among the notables to open the new Museum of Pan African Heritage Ghana in 2026

Doba Afolabi has been in the mention of notable press like Amsterdam News , Washington Posts, Miami Heralds where his work was highlighted in the history of Overtown Miami and artists like Danny Simmons, Otto Neal, Emmitt Wigglesworth, Demola olugbebefola have had group shows with him while his name has also been mentioned with contemporary names like Toyin Odutola , Wangechi Mutu , Yinka Shonibare and several world renowned notables

Harlem Fine Art Shows 2024 will be Doba Afolabi second appearance as he was presented in 2023 by Michael Bradley Gallery with the works of Danny Simmons who actually spoke impressively of him at Bombay Sapphire National Competition in Rush Gallery Chelsea several years ago .

Doba is known worldwide and is always proud of his representation by Dorsey Gallery being the oldest black gallery in New York, Zenith Gallery Washington DC, and Gallery Guichard Chicago. Several pages of his length and depth regarding his achievements can be found online in simple Google search on the palm of every individual .

Doba Afolabi



Island Blues

Acrylic on Canvas

33 x 18 inches

\$1000

Girl with Bag

Acrylic on Canvas

33 x 19 inches

\$1000

The Wings

Acrylic on Canvas

14.5 x 62 inches

\$2000

Lenyse Shomo



Stained Glass Pane

Restored and replaced stained glass windows for historic All Saints Church.