

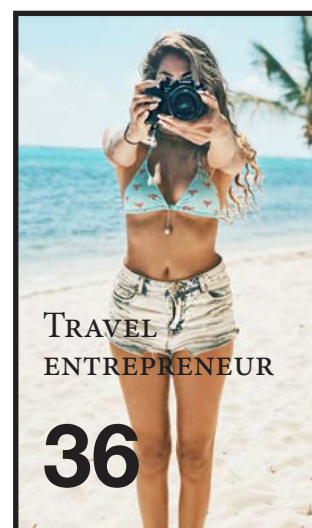
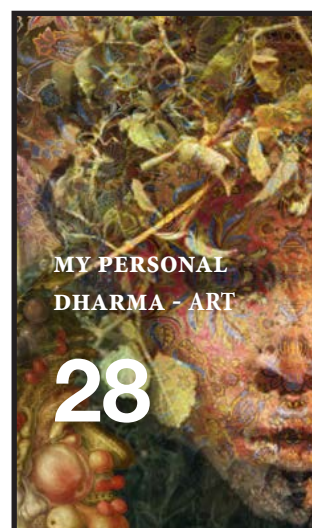


**BASE
CULT
WARE**
islands



Featured photographer: Donn Thompson
Model: Sarah Sebit

BASSCULTURE ISLANDS ISSUE # 1 1



#11 THE BAHAMAS IN FOCUS

EDITOR'S NOTE

Lately I have been reminiscing the time when I traveled and made home of few different places in the world. I loved the feeling of being in a new place and getting to know local people and local spots and just dive into the culture . Only then I was able to say that I have traveled and discovered. For this reason today I can totally relate to the island hopper - Jamie Werner who lived on so many different Caribbean islands and is able to give tips to all the travellers visiting The Bahamas. Don't miss her travel tips! I can also relate to entrepreneur Monica Walton as she describes the road she took to be successful and the fact that the road is usually bumpy. As a creative entrepreneur and talent agent I can definitely appreciate the beautiful art of Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné and Giovanni Zanolino. And even though I have never done any diving, I share the love for the ocean with Bahamian diver Andre Musgrove. Watch how he is giving some really nice tips for both divers and visitors to the Bahamas. Last but not least get taken away into an underwater dreamland with underwater photographer Lucie Drlíková. WOW!! Don't miss out being inspired by her story on how she followed her dream. Our usual film section has some interesting film personalities to read about and Bahamian featured photographer Donn Thompson will make your reading time a pleasure.

Ps. Let me take you for a quick but important journey to TnT ouvert morning and show you the emotion of this event through photography of Kwesi Marciano. I wish you all wanted to experience it on your own skin after you see this!

Ania Orłowska

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Ania Orłowska

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Kerron Riley
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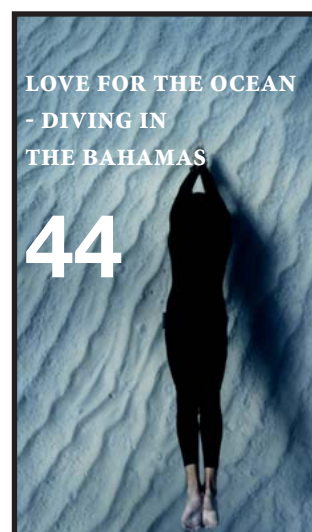
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SPECIAL THANKS
Caribbean Creativity
Caribbean Film Academy
Bassculture Foundation


FRONT AND BACK COVER
Photography: Donn Thompson
Model: Sarah Sebit

 [basscultureislands](https://www.instagram.com/basscultureislands)





Featured photographer: Donn Thompson
Model: Ashii Bethune

A woman with long braids, wearing a vibrant red dress, is posing against a large, dark, textured rock formation. She is looking upwards and to the side, with her hands resting on the rock above her head. The background shows a body of water with gentle ripples under a soft, overcast sky.

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

#11

Donn Thompson of Dracinc

New York City based Fashion & Beauty Photographer, Donn Thompson expresses “This is what I live for”. Hailing from the Caribbean islands of the Bahamas Donn recounts his experiences. “Light & Images are everything, this is how my eyes see. I love the way the sun will kiss both the water and a complexion. The lines, the movement, the way a body will transform as it approaches my lens from a distance walking thru the heat hues...to be able to capture that is indescribable in words alone.”.

Moving to the USA shifted and expanded Donn’s visual palette. “There was more of everything to look at. Taller and bigger buildings, larger fields, cars of every kind. People I had only seen in magazines or on that black & white Zenith [Television Set] every one in my neighborhood in the Bahamas would gather around every Sunday”.

Donn’s love for photography led him to attend the Art Institute of Pittsburgh where he polished his artistic skills as a painter and photographer.

Today, Donn is best known for shooting ad campaigns, fashion spreads, magazines spreads, magazine and album covers, look books and beyond in exotic locations throughout the USA, Africa, The Caribbean, Europe, & Asia..



Featured photographer: Donn Thompson
Model: Ashii Bethune

THE BAHAMAS MUST-DO LIST BY THE ISLAND HOPPER

J a m i e W e r n e r

PHOTOGRAPHY + TEXT BY JAMIE WERNER



'ARUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, TRINIDAD, BARBADOS,
THE BAHAMAS, ST. LUCIA (AND COMING SOON... ST. CROIX).
7 ISLANDS - THAT'S HOW MANY I'VE LIVED ON, BUT I MAKE A POINT TO TRAVEL TO
THE NEIGHBOURING ISLANDS IN BETWEEN.'

- Jamie Werner



ISLAND HOPPING

I started island hopping in 2000, not long after graduating college. I started before having kids, but having kids in tow has ultimately made the hops more interesting and with significantly more baggage (both figuratively and literally). This lifestyle of ours began with my boyfriend’s job at an oil refinery and my job teaching writing to high school students. Then he became my husband. Then we had a baby and life just continued on with new island jobs, and another kid, and another. I started photographing it all, documenting the journeys and the memories, which then became write-ups for tourists; I was a tourist too, after all - one with insider knowledge. And this became our normal. Some stints were long (4+ years) and others were shorter (6+months), but with each hop I gratified my creative cravings by taking photos, piecing together visual island stories that have sequentially become my own family’s story.

LOCAL TOURIST

With each new island comes the opportunity to experience a new culture, new foods, new must-do lists, new people, new

music, new art and of course, new beaches. Being a visitor is fun because everything is novel, and it’s exciting to load up a week’s itinerary with a plan to see it all! However, actually living on an island as a “local tourist” is even better because there is no hurry;

**YOU SLOW DOWN, YOU PUT
DOWN ROOTS, YOU
AREN’T TETHERED TO AN
EXIT DATE. YOU REALLY
MEET PEOPLE, AND YOU
MEET THEM AGAIN AND
AGAIN IN VARIOUS
LOCATIONS UNTIL THEY
BECOME FRIENDS.**

You garner your own routine in this unfamiliar new slice of paradise - Where is the best Yoga studio? Where can I get a decent haircut? Who makes the best rum punch? You actually have to shop for those new foods and learn how to cook them and how to eat them, and sometimes how to like them. Your kids learn about local holidays and sing new songs in their school assemblies and without realizing it, they become tolerant and respectful



of what might be considered different in another part of the world. Like me, local tourists are transient. They come and go for a plethora of reasons: short term jobs, short term loves, escapes from their own daily grind or the winter, and most often their time on an island is less than a few years. Given that, there is a popular thought among islanders that it’s sensible not to get too close to new people because they’ll be leaving soon. I understand this. Change is hard, and it’s even harder when your heart gets attached to people, places and things. However, with only a few island jaunts behind me, I realized that I was unknowingly working diligently against this popular thought.

**I COME TO EACH ISLAND
WITH MY HEART WIDE OPEN
AND MY MIND UNBURDENED
WITH EXPECTATIONS, AND
THIS HAS REWARDED ME BE-
YOND MEASURE.**

The goodbyes are inevitably awful, but I wouldn’t live it any other way because what I have taken away with me to each new adventure is real and meaningful and deep.

THE GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND

We moved our family to Grand Bahama Island in 2010 and lived there until 2014, my longest island post yet. I traveled around to the surrounding islands and the tiny out islands too, for various writing assignments and simple curiosity. The Bahamian people are easy going, warm and welcoming. They are proud of their country and celebrate for any given reason. Whether it’s a funeral or a fundraiser, life on a small island motivates you to get creative with social events. The Bahamas weathered a very serious hurricane in the fall of 2016, and the true spirit of the Bahamian people came alive (as it does with every hurricane, big or small) in their efforts to support each other. Part of the charm of The Bahamas is that life moves at a slower pace there, and people take the time to savor the important “tings”. Island

time is a very real concept, and the best advice is to just embrace it.

In 10 years I imagine myself still atop a paddle board in the Caribbean, still plotting out the next island expedition, still celebrating little umbrellas in my drink, and finally mastering the art of holding a steady Tree Pose in the sand.

THE BAHAMAS MUST-DO LIST

- Conch Salad, start to finish: From pulling the conch straight out of “da sea”, to the dicing, chopping and mixing of citrus juices, onions and peppers, to the serving of it five minutes later. It doesn’t get any fresher than that! And every vendor has his/her own twist as to what makes it taste just right. Yeah, mon!



- Diving and Snorkeling: Given the beauty of the water and the abundant marine life alone, these sports are already guaranteed to leave a lasting memory of your time in The Bahamas, but add to the experience snorkeling across a Blue Hole or diving through an underwater cave, and you might not spend time out of the water at all.



- The Sea: With the help of shallow shorelines in The Bahamas, the aquamarine color and stark clarity of the water is truly unmatched in The Caribbean.



- The Beaches: Bahamian beaches are postcard perfect; fine white (or pink!) sand, stretching on for miles. Beaches are public in The Bahamas so you are free to visit them all, even if they front a resort, but it’s more fun (and easy) to scope out the more secluded areas for the feeling of having a beach all to yourself! (Bringing a shovel, scouting for driftwood and building a bonfire became our favorite beach activity.)



- Animal life on land and underwater: Whether it’s swimming with dolphins, sharks or pigs (yes, pigs), petting stingrays, starfish or hermit crabs, collecting endless amounts of sand dollars, or scoping out more than 300+ species of birds, The Bahamas is a haven for every animal lover.

- Gully Wash (sometimes called Sky Juice): A real Bahamian cocktail made of gin, coconut water, sweetened condensed milk and a dash of Angostura Bitters.

- Bonefishing: Cruise the flats (shallows) while fishing for the elusive silver fish. Home to some of the finest guides in the world, The Bahamas is the place to go if you ever wanted to try your hand at this sport. After your first catch, you’ll be hooked.

- Rake N Scrape: No Bahamas experience is complete without clapping along to guys playing music on tools from the garage. Trust me, it’s catchy.
- Junkanoo: Lively Junkanoo parades take to the streets around the holidays, but special occasions and other island events also bring about the brightly colored costumed revelers dancing to cow bells.





Featured photographer: Donn Thompson
Model: Ashii Bethune

I PERSUED THIS UNDERWATER DREAM

HOW LUCIE DRLÍKOVÁ QUIT HER MANAGERIAL POSITION TO LIVE A LIFE AS AN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER.

 [luciedrlikovaphotography](#)

Lucie Drlíková grew up the Czech Republic, and started studying and living abroad. She occupied managerial positions in large corporate firms for 20 years, when she decided she wanted to do something where she can be herself and use her creativity more. At that time she already had her first camera and started shooting underwater, as well as regular portrait photography. Then, from one day to another, she decided it was time to pursue her passion, and so she quit her job, which did provide her a great amount of security, but it did not give her the true meaning to her work which she only receives when seeing her clients happy with their pictures.



HOW DID YOU BECOME PASSIONATE ABOUT UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY, IT IS OBVIOUSLY A VERY SPECIFIC TYPE OF PHOTOGRAPHY DEMANDING YOU TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN THE WATER. WHAT INSPIRED YOU?

Before I started with underwater photography, I had been a scuba diver for 20 years already. Then my father bought a tiny underwater camera to take pictures when we dive together and I thought it was fun, so I bought one myself too. And that's when it all started. Few years after that I bought a big camera with housing and started shooting marine life.

HOW DO YOU COPE WITH ALL THE UNDERWATER WORK PHOTOGRAPHER HAS TO DO, WHAT DOES IT TAKE? GIVE US A BIT OF INSIDER LOOK INTO AN UNDERWATER SHOOT PLEASE.

It brings some heavy work with it :) When I create scenes, I take everything underwater of course, nothing you see on the pictures was Photoshopped in later. Then it depends if I shoot in a swimming pool, or open water. In swimming pools I also need to lay down some background, mostly to cover up the tiles in the pool. But I enjoy the work so much, that all of this is secondary and I don't pay much attention to it.

YOU ARE BASED IN CZECH REPUBLIC WHICH IS NOT A VERY SUITABLE PLACE FOR WATER PHOTOGRAPHY, I WOULD THINK. DO YOU HAVE TO TRAVEL TO FIND THE BEST PLACES AND WATERS FOR THE SHOOTS?

I have found a great place in the Czech Republic, for pool shooting, where I take my clients, and for the advanced ones or for my own projects I use the freedivers' pool, which is about 20ft deep.



THESE CONCEPTUAL PHOTO SHOOTS WHERE YOU CREATE YOUR OWN SCENE ARE ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. HOW DO YOU COME UP WITH THESE CONCEPTS?

I am a dreamer, I get inspiration every day from what I see, I put my dreams to life this way.

I'M VERY CURIOUS ABOUT THIS WONDERFUL SHOOT YOU DID WITH CRISTINA ZENATO IN THE BAHAMAS, TELL US A BIT ABOUT IT, HOW DID IT GO?

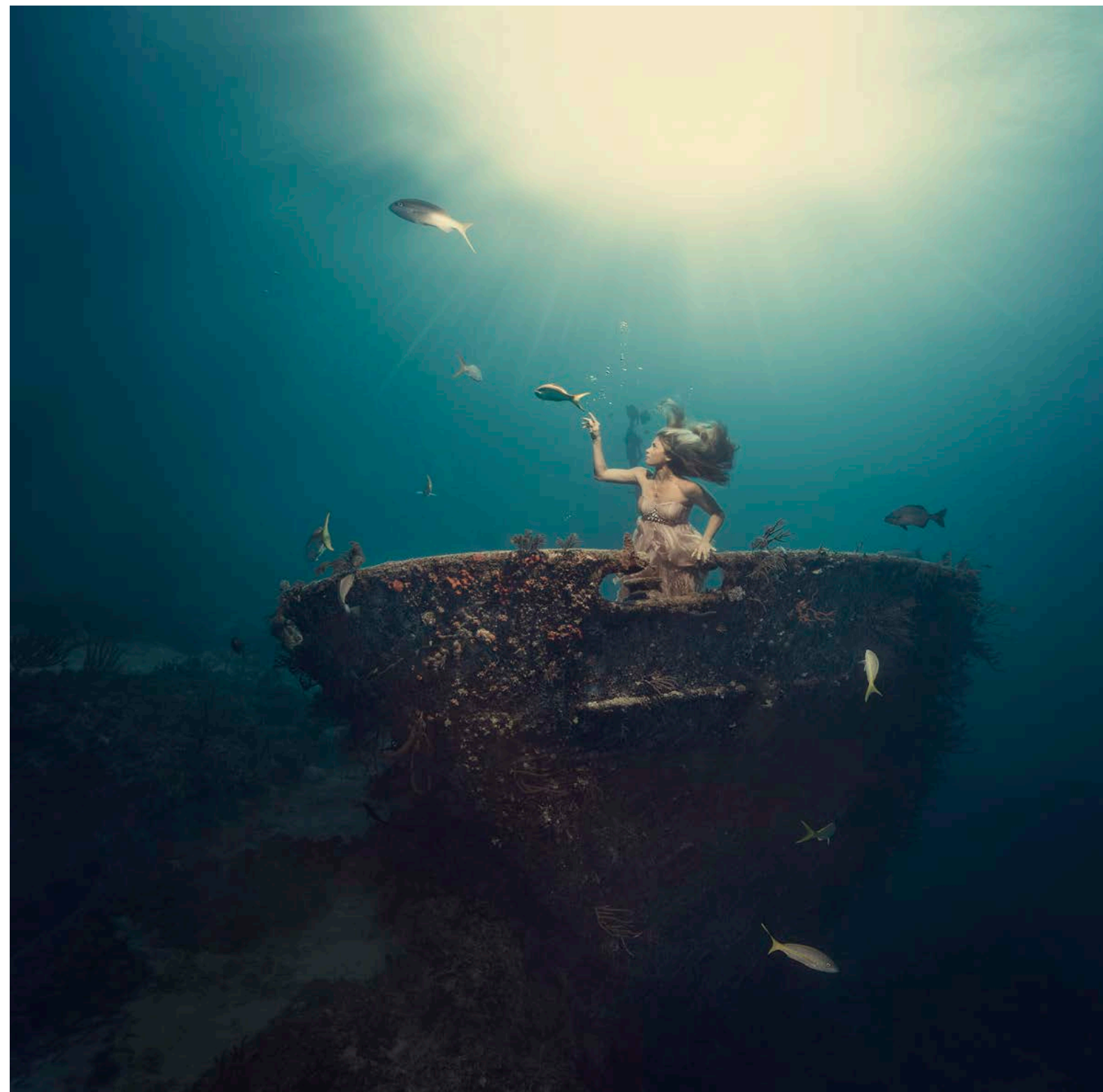
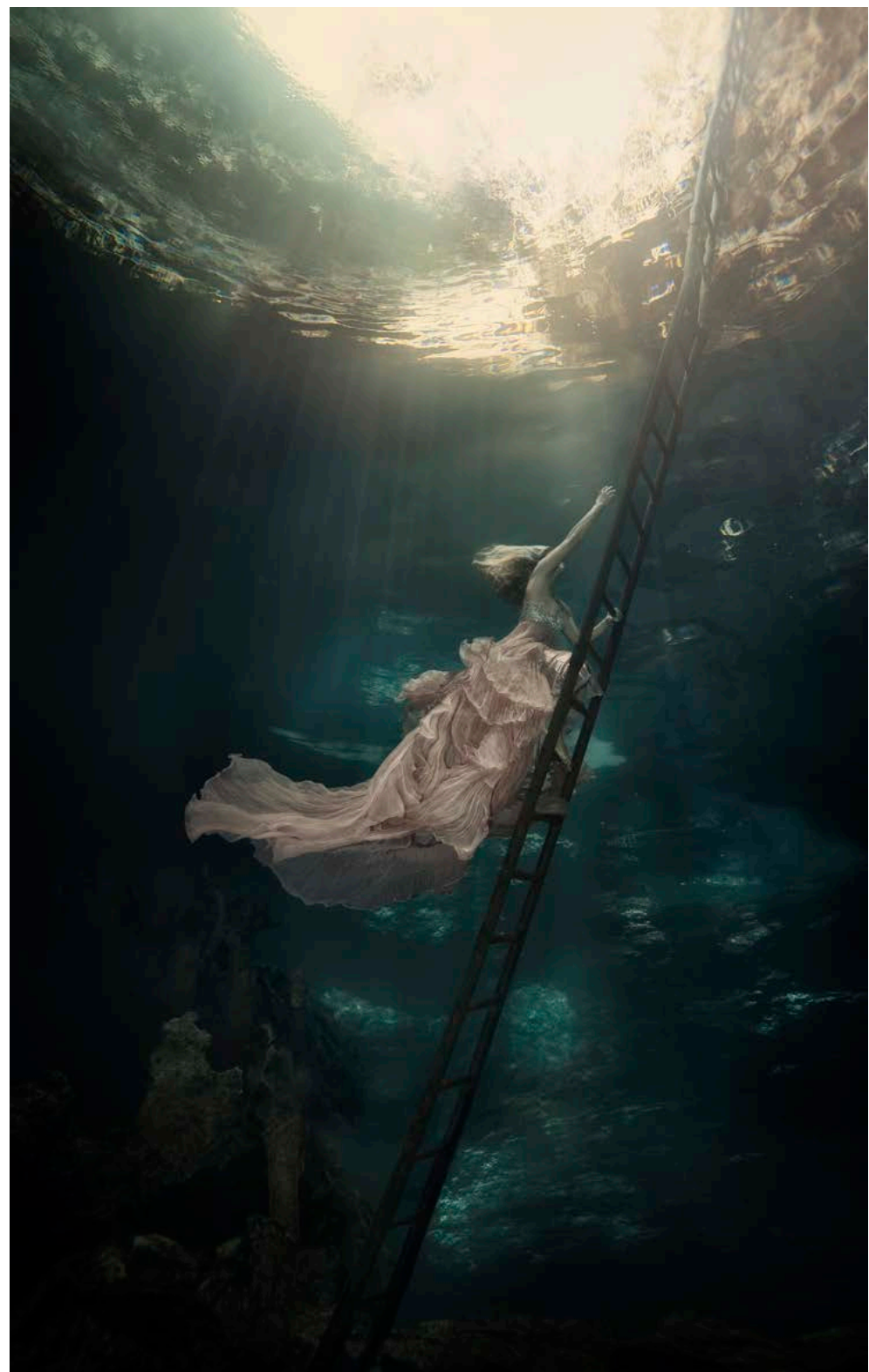
I was excited about shooting with Cristina. She approached me after I published one of my projects for shark protection. It was a very special time that we had creating our images. It was just the two of us and the sharks, cave, ocean, so the shooting was very intimate and I was super happy about how the pictures came out. This shooting was for sure for me the life experience. I am hoping to do this another time in the future. Cristina is amazing woman and I am very happy to call her my friend. She dedicated her life to the ocean, sharks and cave exploring.

YOU ALSO PHOTOGRAPH REGULAR PEOPLE, I CAN IMAGINE PEOPLE ARE NOT USED TO KEEP UNDERWATER POSES AND FACES, HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE THEIR EXPRESSIONS ARE REAL AND SO NATURAL?

Before each shoot I work with the clients to coach them how to feel comfortable under water. We spend about 30 minutes training this before I even get my camera out to make sure that the shooting will be nothing but a positive experience for them.

IF YOU WERE TO LIVE IN THE CARIBBEAN, WHERE WOULD IT BE?

Maybe Cayman Islands. Very difficult to say, I still need to discover lot of Caribbean islands.





I CREATE BECAUSE IT'S MY PERSONAL DHARMA

Giovani Zanolino

WHY?

Because I love to create art, I am in awe of the universe, I love to connect with people and I love to investigate the meaning of life. I hope that the truth that these artworks mirror, will help me and maybe others to become more aware of the truth behind the veil.

TO WHOM?

To everyone. I hope that for the baby learning to focus, the colours, patterns and shapes will help evolve his visuals. For a curious kid, I hope it will spark inspiration, vivid fantasy and a different perspective on things. For a rational thinker, I hope he finds enough connections for an inquisitive mind to ponder existence. For the intuitive viewer to witness awe, love and gratitude. For a Buddhist, Christian and Muslim to find images of brother and sisterhood. For the Old woman to have images to console her that she is immortal. For the lover of arts, science, nature, space, humanity and everything in between, to in my collection find a piece that resonates with them.

HOW?

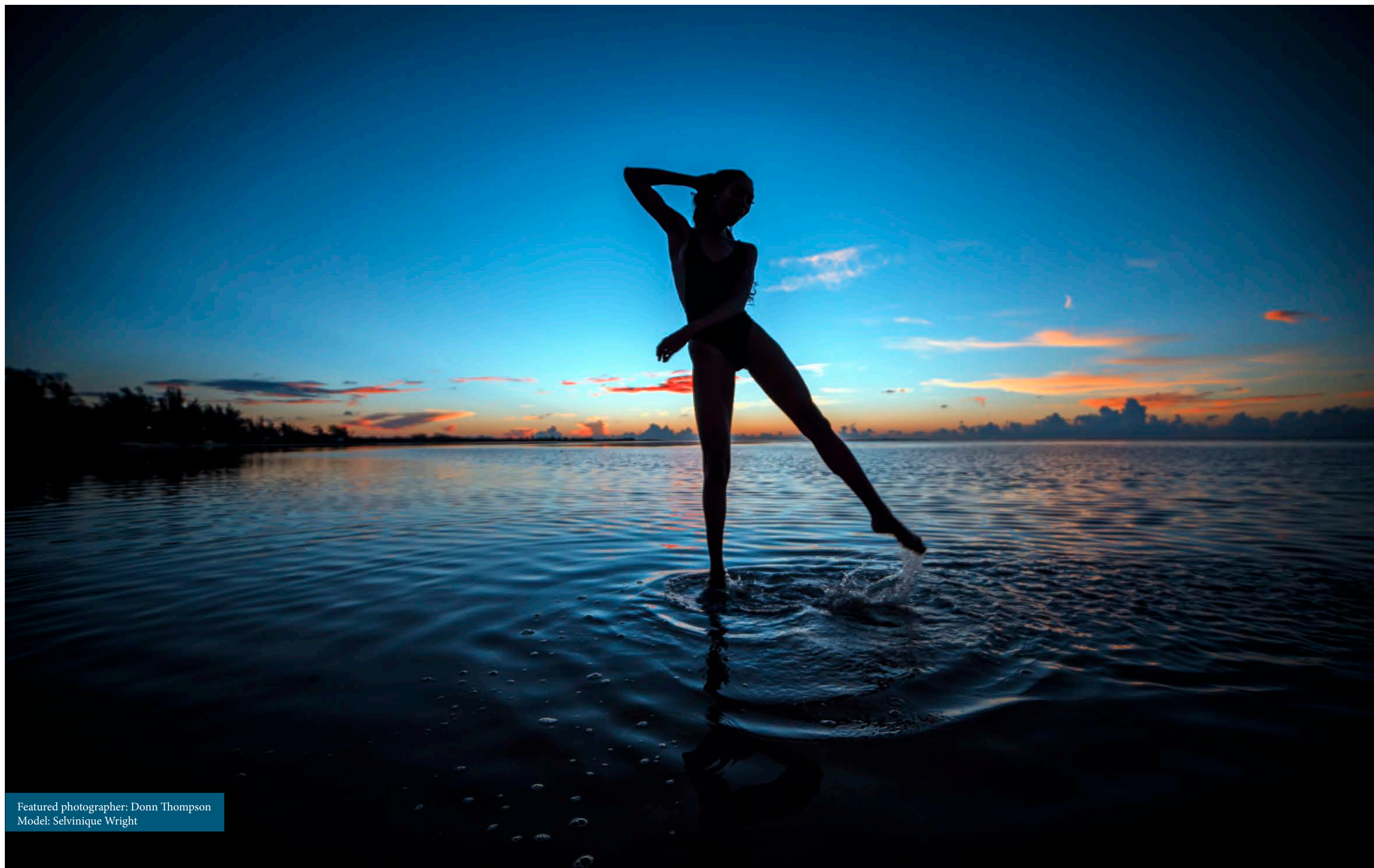
I engage the viewer through layers of many techniques (a.o Ink, acrylic, collage, pastel, photography and digital manipulation), different philosophies, cultures and traditions (eastern + western) as well as different disciplines, such as science, architecture, music, dance etc. etc. I use intuition and or guidance, to piece together these artworks, layer by layer, till they feel complete.

I'M INSTRUMENTAL AND
BELIEVE THAT THE
ENERGY THAT IS MANIFESTED
THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE,
AND WHICH WE ARE ALL
COMPOSED OF, VERILY
CREATES THESE PIECES.

I identify with all peoples, and try to tell the story of creation from as large a perspective as I'm able too. Like in life, I think when you bring all things together and see them from a distance. The beauty of unity in diversity becomes clear.







Featured photographer: Donn Thompson
Model: Selvinique Wright

TRAVEL YOUR LIFE AWAY

with entrepreneur
Monica Walton



MONICA IS A MANAGING DIRECTOR OF A MEDIA COMPANY VAGABOND MEDIA GROUP IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN MEDIA, EVERYTHING FROM PHOTOGRAPHY TO JOURNALISM TO VIDEO. SHE STARTED OUT IN PR, WORKED IN PRODUCTION AND TV FOR A WHILE AND THAT'S WHEN SHE STARTED TRAVELLING AND WRITING. VERY UNEXPECTEDLY, A TRAVEL WEBSITE SHE STARTED, FEATURING HER VIDEOS AND ARTICLES GREW VERY POPULAR AND AFFORDED HER MANY OPPORTUNITIES. AFTER TAKING A BIT OF A RISK AND GETTING SOME COOL COLLABORATIONS, SHE WENT OUT ON HER OWN AND STARTED AN UMBRELLA MEDIA COMPANY READY FOR THE DIGITAL AGE. SHE ALSO SHARES CARIBBEAN TRAVEL INFO ON [BEACHBOXTV.COM](https://beachboxtv.com).



WHAT ALLOWS YOU TO LIVE A TRAVELER LIFE AS AN ENTREPRENEUR. I've always loved to travel and tell stories, you could say I have a restless soul! I studied media, journalism and video production at school and decided to combine the two. I gained some really good work experience in some PR companies in London before moving to the Cayman Islands to work in tv. I had to film and edit lot of the news stories I reported on so I honed in on my video and storytelling skills with a particular focus on travel and tourism. After some years I was fortunate enough to be able to go independent with my own media company and I now manage the tourism channel here in Cayman under my umbrella company Vagabond Media Group.

DO YOU MOSTLY TRAVEL FOR WORK AND MAKE A LIVING OFF THIS WORK? I'm very grateful for the amount I do get to travel. Last year I was able to go to Anguilla, St Maarten, St. Barths, Saba, Jamaica &



Mexico to shoot videos for some cool brands, resorts and tourism companies. A lot of my work is based in Cayman but this year I'll be traveling a lot more for work. We've just landed a cool gig with Jeep Caribbean to film on some of the islands. Next stop is Aruba and I'll be heading to Tulum in the next month also. It's a really long process to actually get paid to travel as there are so many travel writers, bloggers, photographers etc. out there. I've been really lucky as we offer a unique style of video content and have built an audience of Caribbean travelers to distribute the content to.

WHAT IS YOUR SUCCESS STORY?

A lot of work! A lot of sacrifice, figuring out what makes money and what doesn't, knowing your audience and having a great deal of experience in the field is how I managed to get to this point, I guess! A lot of people say you should do what you love and take a big leap of faith, but I'm a believer in really taking your time to get a plan in place and build a solid brand

and bank of experience before making any drastic decisions.

DO YOU ALSO USE DRONES TO PREPARE MATERIALS?

Yes, I'm a university certified drone pilot and I studied photography and video. I love filming and editing. It's so rewarding seeing a story come together! Seeing the Caribbean from above is incredible and is such an adrenaline rush!

THERE IS SO MANY PEOPLE DREAMING ABOUT THIS KIND OF LIFE, IS THERE ANY ADVICE YOU COULD GIVE THEM?

It takes a lot of being humble, patience, hard work and at the beginning working a lot for free until you can really build a

substantial, successful brand and offer a somewhat rare skill/service to go along with that before you can even think about making a living, in my experience that is. Being in the creative industry helps, having a lot of experience and even a journalism/ creative degree helps. Building a large portfolio of work is a great start as well as traveling a lot and finding a niche! Go after your dreams but be prepared for hard work along the way!

WOULD YOU GIVE US A FEW INSIDER TIPS ON WHAT TO DO IN THE BAHAMAS?

Book a full-day trip on the sea in Great Exuma. You'll stop off at a few sites on the way, such as Thunderball Grotto, a stunning underwater cave and the set of the famous James Bond movie, you'll



powerboat through the beautiful islands and sandbars, see some Rock Iguanas, Nurse Sharks and of course, the perhaps the most unusual of them all, the swimming pigs! While you're in the Exumas, you should definitely head to the other pretty beaches across the island, like the Tropic of Cancer beach - it's just miles and miles of aquamarine blue.

WHAT WAS YOUR THE MOST MEMORABLE TRIP EVER.

One of my most memorable trips was to India a few years ago. I was volunteering in an orphanage and in some schools near the Himalayas. I was very humbled by the experience and fell in love with the people, the culture and how colourful and aromatic the country was. In terms of the Caribbean, another memorable trip was flying to St. Martin, Saba, St. Barths and Anguilla in one trip. It was incredible how close these islands are to each other yet so different in

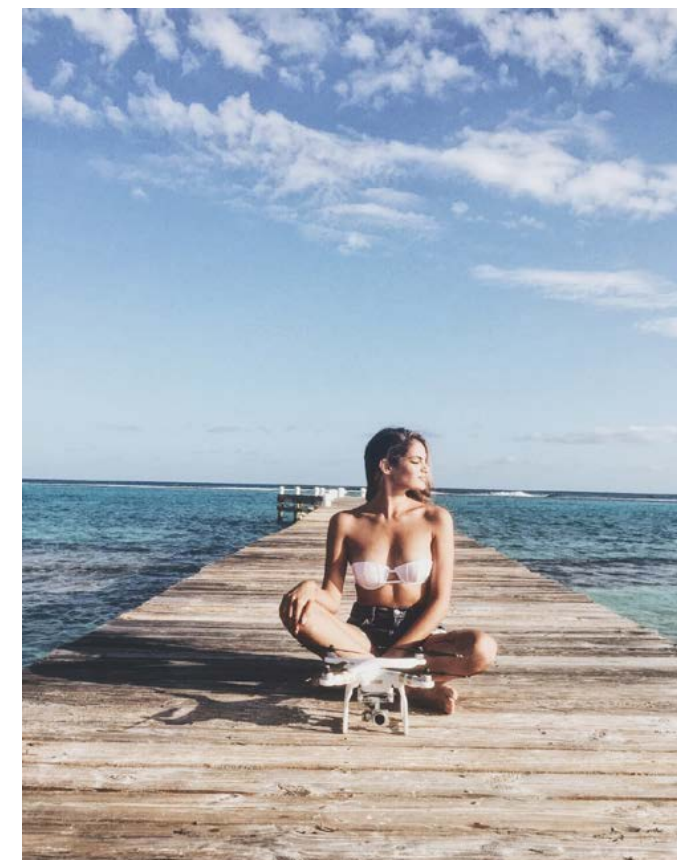


GO AFTER YOUR
DREAMS BUT BE
PREPARED FOR
HARD WORK
ALONG THE
WAY!

what they offer. St. Barths is super glamorous and upscale, whereas Saba is quaint, charming and full of adventure.

WHAT YOUR DAY AT THE BEACH IS LIKE?

I love to get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine and the peacefulness that a day at the beach brings. Being an entrepreneur can be very stressful and tiring! Luckily in the Cayman Islands, it's always beautiful outside and I'm very grateful to be living so close to the beach, so I find time to reflect, regroup and get out of business mode and into beach mode. I guess a good motto to have for a happy life, is to just live a well and balanced life.





Featured photographer: Donn Thompson
Model: Sarah Sebit

UNDERWATER LOVE FOR THE OCEAN

André JE Musgrove



andre.musgrove

ANDRÉ JE MUSGROVE - AN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER, AVID SPEAR FISHERMAN, FREE DIVER AND SCUBA DIVER FROM NASSAU, BAHAMAS. ‘I ENJOY ANY ACTIVITY THAT INVOLVES ADRENALINE AND THE OCEAN. I TAUGHT MYSELF HOW TO SWIM AT A VERY YOUNG AGE, SO I’VE SPENT ALMOST ALL OF MY LIFE IN THE WATER.’

HOW IT ALL STARTED...

My father introduced me to fishing, but mainly spearfishing because he also started at an early age. He taught me the basics about diving and spearfishing and as I grew older I realized how much more I could learn about it all, specifically freediving. I always chose to be in the water and took every opportunity to do so. Not taking advantage of the crystal clear waters of my country would be a complete waste of “geographical positioning” in my opinion. I started scuba diving in 2013 when I joined my high school’s Scuba Club and obtained my PADI Open Water Diver certification and my PADI Advanced Open Water Diver certification shortly after, at the age of 16. During my senior year of high school, I became the President of the Scuba Club and earned my PADI Rescue Diver certification in. In 2015 I achieved my current certification as a PADI Divemaster and am now currently half way through my PADI Scuba Instructor course. I’ve garnered my free diving experience through spearfishing since it is pretty much diving with a spear. In September of 2015 a group of my friends and I formed a spearfishing team of 8 local Bahamian young men, Spearhamas Spearfishing, as we all have a passion for the ocean. I was taught to use my first Hawaiian sling at the age of 10, after years of watching my father and uncle spearfish. Because spearguns are illegal in the Bahamas, I moved on from the Hawaiian sling to my preferred spear, a polespear. I began taking free-diving more seriously at age 17 and began to practice static breath holds and dynamic apnea more often.

MY NORMAL DAY ON THE ISLAND...

I work at a local dive shop as an underwater photographer/videographer in the photo lab department. Everyday that I’m on the job, I’m in and on the ocean either scuba diving or freediving, always with a camera in hand. I have the opportunity everyday to scuba dive on what we call the “Wall”, the edge of the tongue of the Atlantic Ocean, to dive with marine animals like turtles, dolphins, stingrays,

and my favorites, sharks! Even when I’m not at work I’m in the ocean, either free diving and spearfishing with my friends or shooting videos of my adventures. I don’t believe the saying “too much of a good thing” is applicable when it comes to the ocean! I enjoy promoting my country and showing others the importance of the ocean and its inhabitants. The content I create through photography and video is to show other individuals how much we can benefit from the ocean and to encourage them to keep it safe, just like anything else we love.

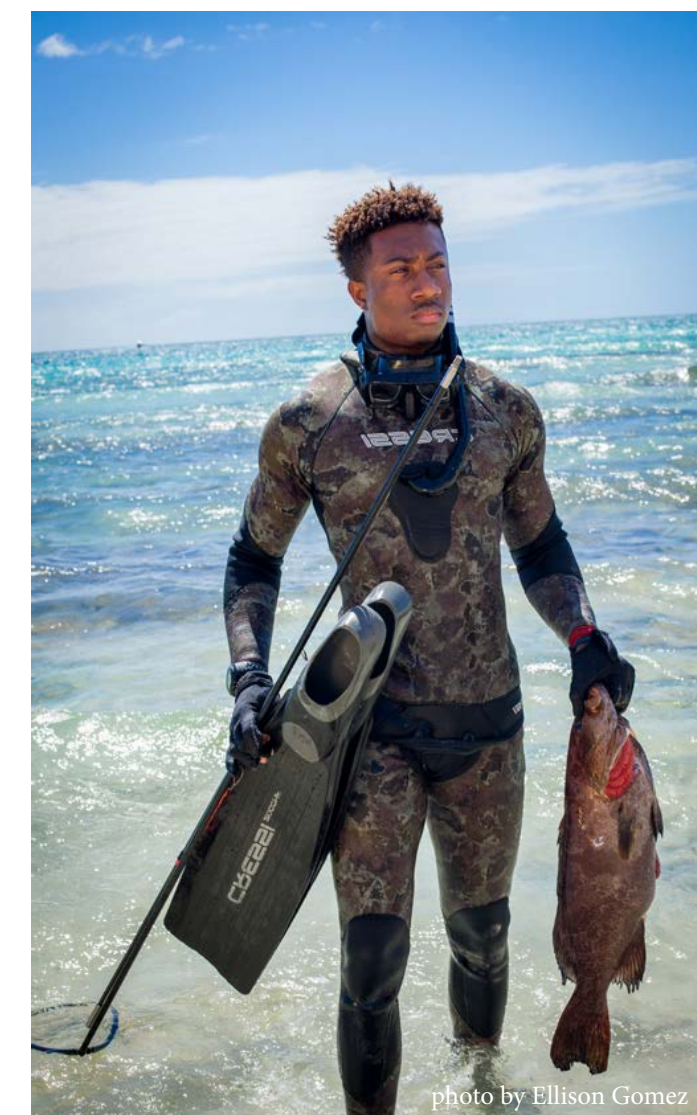


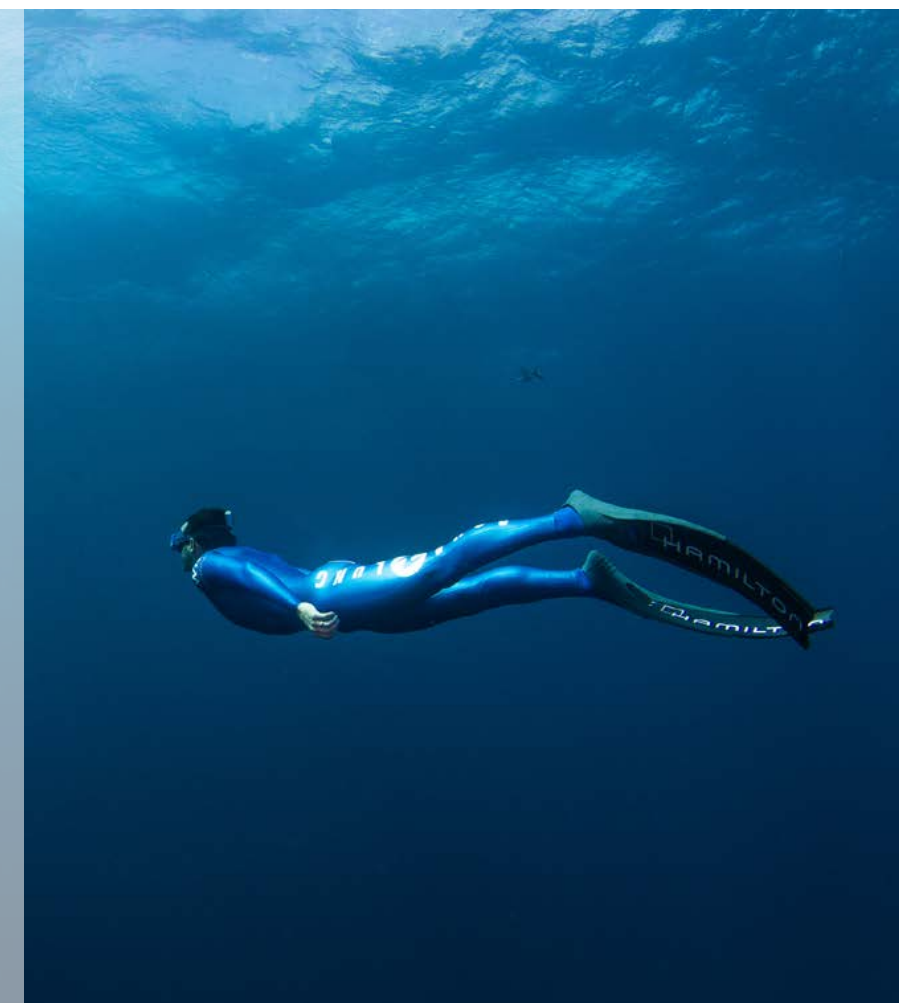
photo by Ellison Gomez



I AM HERE TO ENCOURAGE
PEOPLE TO KEEP THE OCEAN
SAFE, JUST LIKE ANYTHING
ELSE WE LOVE. JUST AS WE
ARE TAKING CARE OF THE
PEOPLE WE LOVE,
I RELATE THAT RELATIONSHIP
TO THE OCEAN AS WELL.

I LOVE THIS LIFE I LIVE BE-
CAUSE I'M ABLE TO EDUCATE,
SHARE AND ENCOURAGE
OTHERS TO TAKE CARE OF
WHAT GOD HAS BLESSED US
WITH.

- ANDRÉ JE MUSGROVE



5 TIPS FOR DIVING ROOKIES

BY ANDRE JE MUSGROVE

NEVER DIVE ALONE.

Whether it's free-diving, spearfishing or scuba diving, diving alone is dangerous and, let's be honest, it's not as fun if you're by yourself. Always inform someone if you're going out diving just incase something happens, someone on land will know where you are and what you are doing.

ALWAYS CARRY A CAMERA WITH YOU.

Some of the most rare experiences can occur at any time so you have to be ready.

CARRY EXTRA EQUIPMENT.

Whether it be snorkelling, free diving, scuba diving, or spearfishing or camera equipment, carry extra. I always remind the guys on my spearfishing team about this because there's nothing worse than having to cut a day short because of lost, broken or forgotten equipment. When it comes to action water activities, the more cameras the better.

CHECK WEATHER FORECAST.

Always check the weather before you actually bother to plan your day of diving. The weather plays a big factor when it comes to the ocean and can mean the difference between a great day and a terrible one. The amount of sunlight and clouds affects the visibility and clarity of the water. The amount of wind affects the amount of chop (waves) which makes any surface swimming much harder to do. Save yourself the trouble and check the forecast before you go out; there will be other days.

BE RESPECTFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Mind where you put your trash or any non-biodegradable products, mind your fins and equipment on the coral reefs if diving and, yes, even when spearfishing. Obey local fishing regulations and practice with a conscience. My spearfishing team and I only shoot as much as we can eat and we always eat what we shoot. If you love something you'll respect and take care of it.

5 THINGS TO DO IN THE BAHAMAS

GO SNORKELLING.

This is an activity any person can do, young or old. Its safe, easy and hassle-free. There are many snorkel excursion companies around the Bahamas that offer snorkel trips and tours. If you want to step it up a notch, the dive shop i work at (Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas) in Nassau, allows you to snorkel with sharks!

THE EXUMA CAYS.

Shallow crystal clear water, beached iguanas and swimming pigs. you've probably heard about at least one of these before, and they are all found in the Exuma Cays. You can swim, feed and interact with pigs at Pig Beach on "Big Major's Cay". You can also feed and play with iguanas that live on some of the cays. Compass Cay in the has a really cool dock and restaurant in a little cove that includes a complementary welcome party of nurse sharks! Nurse sharks are more like swimming puppies than actual sharks so you can get up close and personal with them.

JUNKANOO. Junkanoo is a Bahamian festival similar to Madigras or Carnival but with the added Bahamian Flavor. It includes music from live played instruments, festive dances and large hand made costumes. Junkanoo is much more popular around the end of the year holidays or on Bahamian Independence Day in July.

TRY SPEARFISHING OR FISHING. The spearfishing and fishing here in the Bahamas is some of the best in the world.

TALK TO THE LOCALS. This may very well be one of the most interesting experiences you have. Talking to us locals will be educating and entertaining at the same time. The stories some Bahamian locals tell and the vernacular we use would be able to hold your attention for the duration of your entire trip.

photos by Andre Musgrove for Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas



Featured photographer: Donn Thompson
Model: Selvinique Wright

THE ART OF SELF-CARE HEALING AND FORGIVENESS

BY
DANIELLE
BOODOO-FORTUNÉ

 dboodoofortune

INSPIRATION

My work is very rooted in the Trinidadian landscape, and draws heavily upon my experience of growing up the Caribbean. I am very interested in landscape as a repository of memory and history, and in ideas of ancestral memory and the divine feminine. All my paintings start from a very personal place, but I think of this as a process of filtering abstract ideas through my own hands and heart.

MATERIALS

I use watercolors, acrylics and ink on watercolor paper.

I like the elemental feel of watercolor, the flow and movement of it. Sometimes I also collage with bits of old books, flowers, leaves, string and different textured paper.

THE MESSAGE

The paintings come first, and the words come during the process. While I am drawing or painting, I always try to see what thoughts emerge. I ask myself what I am trying to bring to the surface, and I write them down as they become clear.

I think that brave, authentic and truthful work is a vastly powerful thing, not only for the reader or viewer, but for the creator as well. I try to be as open with my process as possible, to find powerful and strong images, and even at times to allow myself to be a conduit, if need be.

I think more than anything else, I want to be able to offer some sustenance, some light, water and love through my work. I go through different stages in the journey where I want to convey different things, but right now, I am most interested in self-care, healing and forgiveness.



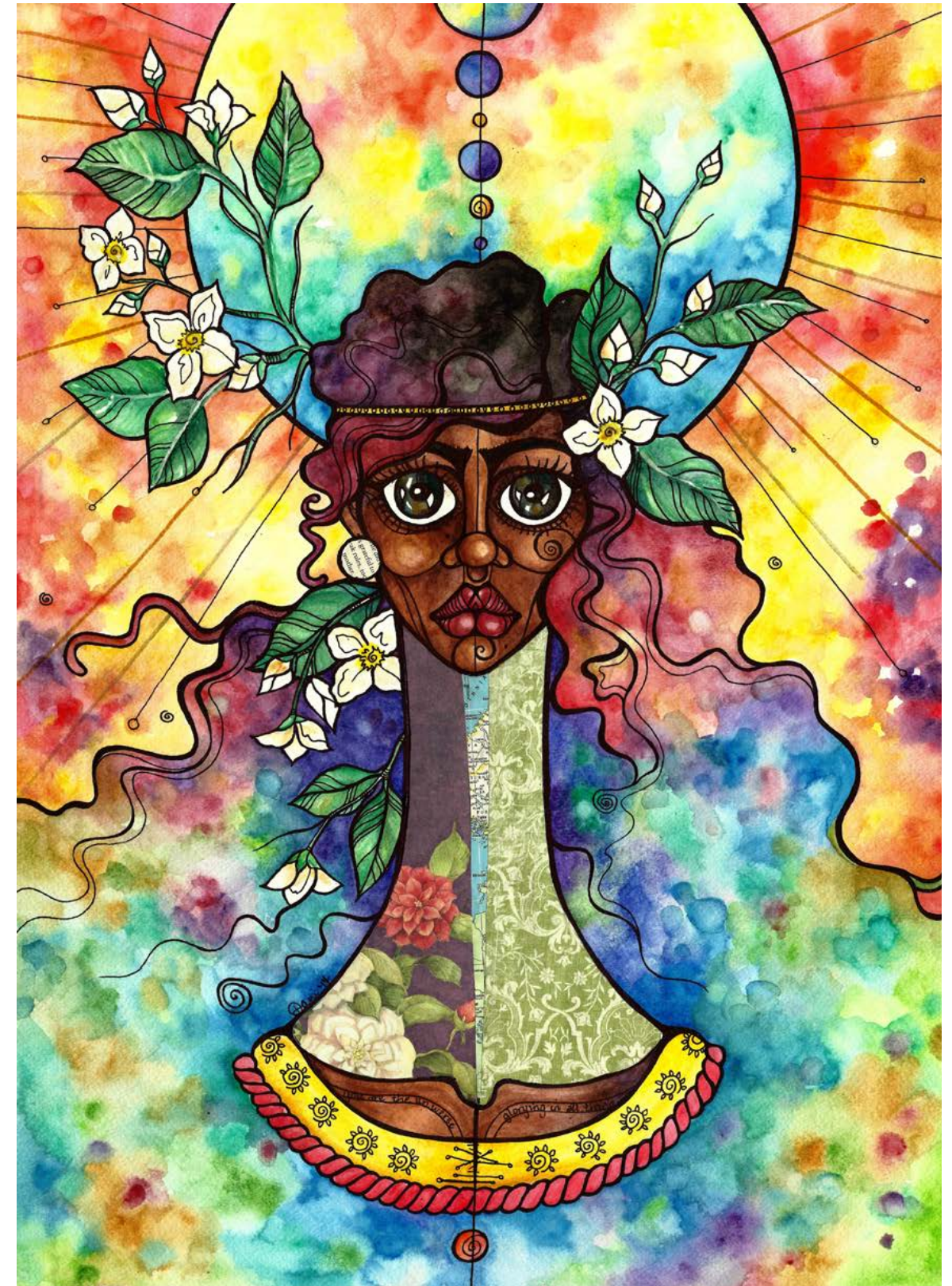
After the Flood

Water rushes like memory, finds its echo in my body. On this edge of land I lean into the light, cast my voice like a net into the sea.



Harvest Dreaming

Remember, treat yourself with tenderness. You are not an apology, not an offering, not a mistake or a weapon. You are a miracle, a warm divine creature. Walk, live, rest in that awareness, each bone lit from the inside with love.



The Sun Within

We are each one of us so radiant and full of light. It is hard to see the divinity through the dust of the everyday, but it is always here.




Unbroken

*If you love me, let me listen to the mountains shifting
in sleep, the whistling of all the rivers in my body.
Let me dream long into the morning, leave my heart
open in the doorway, let the light undress me.*

*Call me by secret names, by that word meaning
mother, daughter and bird in your grandmother's
tongue. If you love me, let me be.*



Featured photographer: Donn Thompson
Model: Izabel Taylor



THAT EMOTION OF JOUVERT MORNING

A QUICK LOOK INTO
JOUVERT MORNING,
TRINIDAD 2017

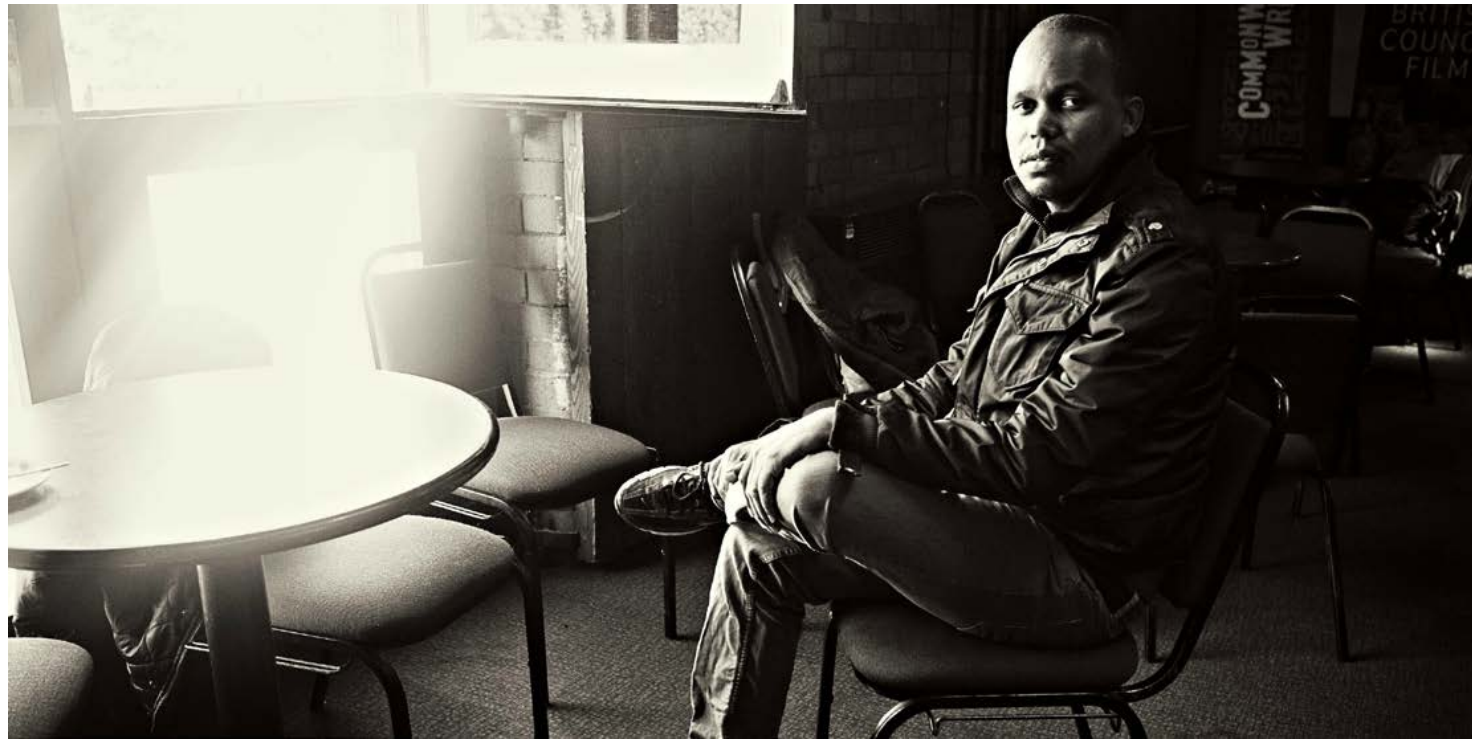
PHOTOGRAPHY
BY KWESI MARCANO



Jouvert (pronounced “Jou-vay”) is derived from French patois and means ‘daybreak’. Jouvert marks the official start of the two day carnival celebrations in Trinidad & Tobago. It usually officially commences at 4:00 a.m. on Carnival Monday.







KAREEM MORTIMER MADE IN THE BAHAMAS

INTERVIEW BY ROMOLA LUCAS OF THE CARIBBEAN FILM ACADEMY

KAREEM MORTIMER (1980) IS A BAHAMIAN FILMMAKER WHO HAS DIRECTED VARIOUS FILMS, INCLUDING THE ELEUTHERAN ADVENTURE (2006), CHILDREN OF GOD (2010) AND PASSAGE (2013). HIS NEWEST FEATURE FILM, CARGO, THAT DEALS WITH HUMAN SMUGGLING, IS SET FOR RELEASE THIS YEAR.



HOW DID YOU KNOW BEING A WRITER/DIRECTOR WAS MEANT FOR YOU?

I've always loved movies. I grew up exceptionally close with my paternal grandmother and she had a never-ending supply of videotapes ranging from *Imitation of Life* to *Tango & Cash*. We would watch movies together and eventually I started watching them by myself and fell in love with the beauty of storytelling and its ability to move me.

WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT THE PROCESS OF FILMMAKING?

I enjoy every bit of the process, but sometimes I think the most exciting part is daydreaming about it before it actually happens. But seriously, my favorite part is production. I thrive in high pressure environments and enjoy solving problems and working with actors.

You've managed to carve out the space to tell



the stories you want to tell, the way you want – to what would you attribute this success? Thank you very much for saying that. I attribute it to just staying the course. As Caribbean filmmakers, what we have to say about the world is very unique and after working so hard to open the right door, the thought of compromising my artistic integrity feels like a betrayal of all I stand for.

COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOUR LATEST PROJECT, CARGO?

After my short film *Passage* was done, I felt there was a great deal more to be said about human smuggling. *Cargo* is the story of a fisherman who becomes a human smuggler to pay off mounting debts, juxta-

posed against the story of a young Haitian single mother, searching for a better life for her son. Filming took us to some very challenged communities in Nassau, and seeing the neighborhood children watch us excitedly, from shooting call to wrap, made me hope we have inspired them.

DO YOU HAVE ONE KEY PIECE OF ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED ALONG THE ROAD?

One piece of advice I got is to never doubt myself. That does not mean being arrogant or discounting advice of others, but being true to how you feel inside.

Watch the award-winning film *'Passage'* on Youtube and follow us on FB: Cargo 2016



BORN AND RAISED IN BARCELONA, AND AFTER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE SPANISH TELEVISION INDUSTRY, MAINLY AS A CAMERAMAN AND EDITOR, MIQUEL GALOFRÉ. DECIDED TO TRY HIS LUCK IN THE CARIBBEAN IN 2008. AND WITH SUCCESS. WITH *WHY DO JAMAICANS RUN SO FAST?* (2009), *HIT ME WITH MUSIC* (2011), *SONGS OF REDEMPTION* (2013) AND, MOST RECENTLY, *MY FATHER'S LAND* (2015), HE HAS DIRECTED AN IMPRESSIVE BODY OF EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARIES IN AND ON THE CARIBBEAN.

MIQUEL GALOFRÉ FROM THE CARIBBEAN WITH LOVE

BY EMIEL MARTENS OF CARIBBEAN CREATIVITY



The first documentary Miquel directed in the Caribbean was *Why Do Jamaicans Run So Fast?* (2009), about the huge success of the Jamaican sprinters at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. The film stood out for at least three qualities: its stylish cinematography, its exclusive access to people and places, and its unique capacity to say something about Jamaican society-at-large. These three qualities gave the film, and all his work, a great feel and depth. *Hit Me With Music* (2011), his next film, was a musical documen-

tary focused on the Jamaican dancehall scene, but again also on Jamaican society-at-large, discussing critical issues such as poverty and violence – issues that affect the island so much. Then, he made *Songs of Redemption* (2013), a documentary telling the story of a group of inmates in Jamaica's most notorious prison and their rehabilitation through music, through reggae music. Again, the film was characterized by great cinematography and great access to people and places.



Around that time, Miquel started working on *Art Connect* in Trinidad & Tobago, and after completing his 'Jamaican trilogy', he moved to this two-island nation in the eastern Caribbean. It was here that he made his best documentary so far. *Art Connect* follows the lives of a group of teenagers who are living and are going to school in Laventille, a marginalized and volatile area in Port of Spain, the capital of the Caribbean island nation of Trinidad & Tobago. Through an art program they follow and the cameras they are operating themselves, we get to know their interests, fears and dreams – and see the power of culture to drive individual and social change. The result is a very strong personal and emotional experience combined with critical observations on Trinidad & Tobago society.

Art Connect is truly a must-see film for everybody who cares about disadvantaged children and believes in the emancipatory power of arts and culture. Or as columnist Debbie Jacob wrote in the Trinidad & Tobago Guardian: "I am tempted to say that the T&T documentary *Art Connect* is amazing, but that seems

like an understatement. The winner of both the People's Choice Award and the Best Documentary in the 2014 T&T Film Festival, *Art Connect* is a rare look at how creativity transforms taciturn, unconfident and sad youths into articulate, confident and happy individuals."

Miquel's latest feature-length documentary, *My Father's Land* (2015), which he made together with Tyler Johnston, was shot in both Haiti and the Bahamas. The 1-hour documentary follows Papa Jah, a humble gardener, who has lived in the Bahamas for forty years and now returns to Haiti to see his 103-year-old father and reunite with the land he left. The film had its world premiere in the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival in 2015, where it immediately won the Amnesty International Human Rights Award.

Miquel is putting out great work and we are looking forward to seeing more of him in the years to come.





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