

Opening Friday 2nd September 2011 (until 2nd October 2011)
Ipswich Art School
Tue – Sun, 10am to 5pm
FREE Admission

Come along and explore the links between Colchester and Ipswich Museums and the Bahamas in this unique response to an international exchange by two artists Dede Brown and Bettina Furnée. The exhibition opens at Ipswich Art School on 2nd September and runs until 2nd October 2011.

Ipswich Museum has an ethnographic collection that links with Africa, but is keen to develop a collection that reflects the strength of the Afro-Caribbean diaspora in the Town. To this end, an international artist exchange has taken place, Bettina Furnée from the UK, who has spent 2 months in the Bahamas together with one month at Ipswich Museum and Dede Brown, an artist from the Bahamas who has spent three months in Ipswich.

Bettina, who is from East Anglia, spent April and July in Nassau, Bahamas and her work reflects her investigations into what life is like to live in paradise that is affected by seasonal hurricanes and tropical storms. Her work includes photography, film and she demonstrates inspired ways to measure air pressure to forecast when a hurricane is due.

Bettina Furnée said, "I took with me a copy of *Treasure Island* by Louis Stevenson, as well as a reflective shelter. I was interested in the notion of an island nation, isolated yet with so many fluid borders."

Dede, from the Bahamas, has chosen to explore 'Identity' personally and nationally through painting and costume. She has focused on the spirit of the Bahamas annual festival Junkanoo and links this to the museum's collections through influences from the military costumes, British Gold Pheasants and the colours of each countries flags.

Dede Brown said, "Identity is a topic that has intrigued me for years and I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to explore it through my artwork."

"This residency programme has opened many doors to me and I have gained some wonderful experiences both on a personal and professional level. Having never been to the UK before this trip, I would say that my past 3 months here have been both positive and interesting."

"I encourage people to visit the Ipswich Art School to see our exhibition, which will hopefully give even more insight as to our artistic journeys during the exchange programme."

You can come and find out more about the Bahamas/Ipswich artist exchange with a talk from the Artists on Tuesday 30 August, 7pm – 8pm at Ipswich art school. See and hear about the ideas and art produced and ask questions about the art produced and ask questions from the artists involved from both

sides of the Atlantic. It costs just £3 per person and booking is essential, please call 01473 433691 to avoid disappointment.

Material Response is an ambitious programme of international exchanges happening across museums in the East of England involving artists from China, India, Pakistan and the UK. Working with museums in the host countries, the artists explore collections as a pathway into a different culture and to inspire new works of art.

Material Response is part of Stories of the World, a project at the heart of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad¹.