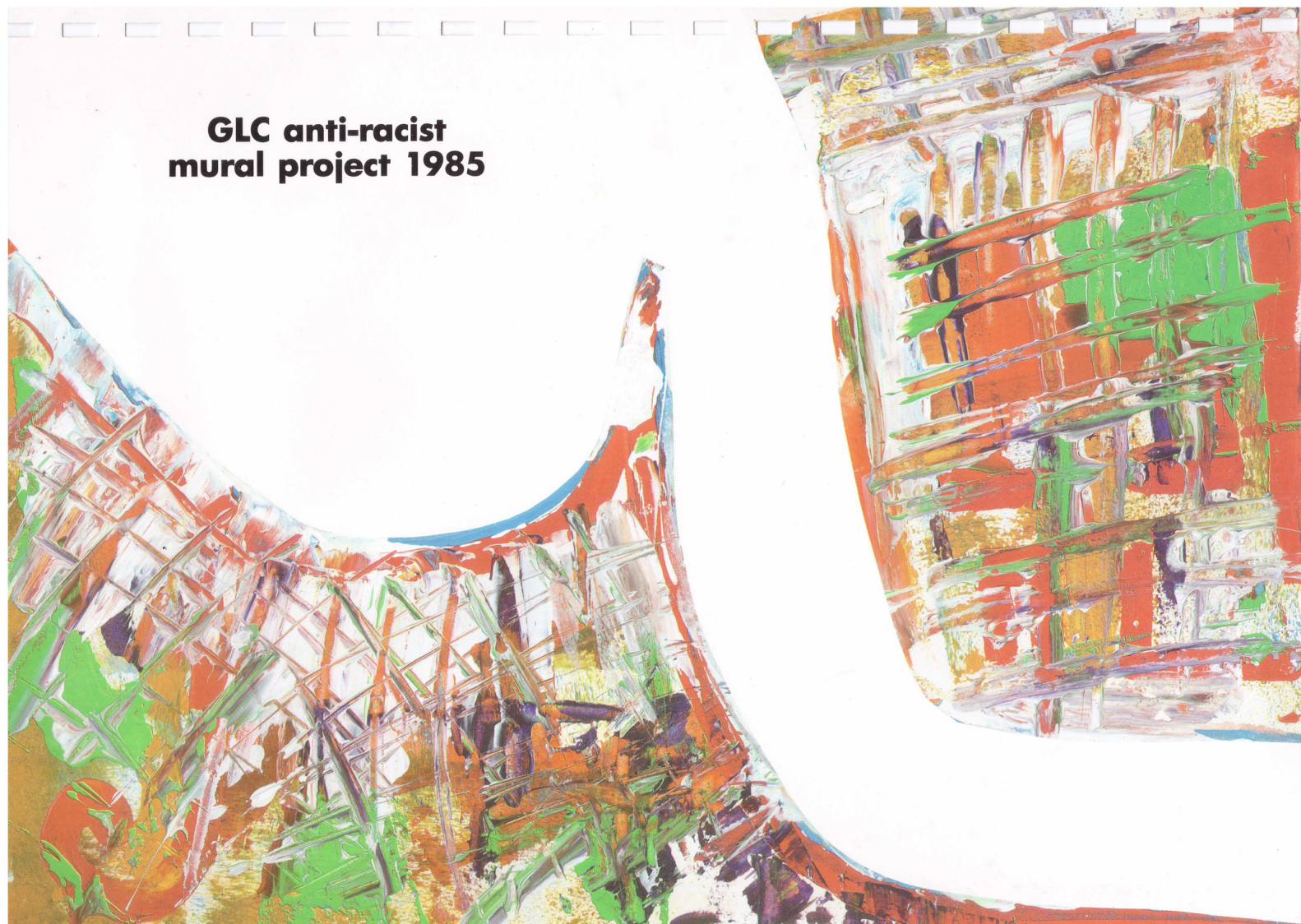


**GLC anti-racist
mural project 1985**



MURAL PROJECT

1 9 8 5

GLC RACE EQUALITY UNIT

FOREWORD

In February 1985 the GLC's Race Equality Unit in the Department for Recreation and The Arts commissioned four major murals. This was one of the Council's Anti Racist Year initiatives and this project was to be completed in six months.

The GLC Arts and Recreation Committee allocated funds for Black/Asian artists to paint murals on appropriate themes on strategically located buildings in London, particularly in those areas which have a historical connection with the black presence or have experienced racial conflict. The areas are Notting Hill, Brixton, Southall and the East End. The murals are intended to provide a socio-political statement on, and as well as a visible record of, the past struggles and future aspirations of these communities. The projects actively involved the people of the areas from their inception, so that the murals did not seem sudden additions to the environment but proud achievements of the local communities. During the planning stage there was active consultation with community centres, art societies, art groups, people in the street, the local police and children.

The content of each mural was finalised only after public discussions over preliminary sketches. Eight artists in four pairs were selected to work on the project, namely Gavin Jantjes and Tom Joseph (56 Railton Road, Brixton), Shanti Panchal and Dushka Ahmad (Lowood Street, East London), Keith Piper and Chila Kumari Burman (Southall), and Lubaina Himid and Simone Alexander (Notting Hill). The murals are painted on walls in the Brixton area and the East End and on mobile panels in Notting Hill and Southall. It is the first time in the history of London that Black/Asian artists have been commissioned for such major works of Art.

These murals on Contemporary Social Relationships are bang on target. Out of the ashes of the Brixton Riots of 1981 emerges "The Dream, the Rumour and the Poet's Song", a brilliantly executed piece of work by Gavin Jantjes and Tom Joseph.

The East-facing wall of the Highway Club in Lowood Street, E1, houses "Across the Barrier" of Shanti Panchal and Dushka Ahmad. It tells the story of an Asian family, barricaded in their home, the threat outside, the onlookers not knowing what to do, the children playing, some unaware of the hazards while others are fearful of the outcome. Finally, on the top section the artists interpret their aspirations of peace and tranquility for our future society.

Public consultations took place on a door to door basis around the site of the East End Mural. In that area approximately three quarters of the local community are Asians and were overwhelmingly in support of the original design (see photograph). At a public meeting a small articulate economically powerful group objected to some aspects of the design and the artists made several changes to accommodate their feelings. The mural itself now differs in that the message of the lower centre panel has been considerably toned down.

The first sketch of the Southall mural was also rejected by a small similar group of people. The mural presents with impressive power a visual historical documentation of a particularly difficult period in the lives of the people of Southall. The revised version called "Southall Black Resistance" is now completed.

After several consultations the Notting Hill mural, "Unity, Equality and Freedom", was completed by Lubaina Himid and Simone Alexander. It portrays many facets of the black experience in a single colourful design full of life and movement. This work, like that of Southall, will hopefully be used as a travelling exhibition.

These four murals will provide Black/Asian artists with an excellent public outlet for their work by offering a rare opportunity to be involved with a unique and worthwhile project. It is hoped that it will further race relations by contributing generally to the awareness of Londoners and specifically of local residents.



SHEILA SEEPERSAUD-JONES
Co-ordinator

Peter Pitt, Chairman of the GLC Arts and Recreation Committee, said:

"I believe that these murals will provide a living testimony to all Londoners of the multi racial composition of the capital city and the contributions made by the black and ethnic minority communities."

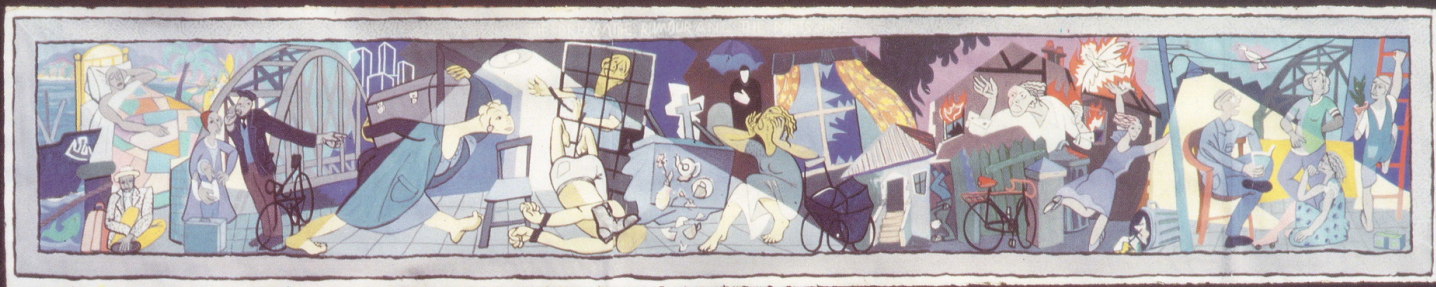
The Greater London Council is proud to present these designers.

PARMINDER VIR · HEAD OF RACE EQUALITY UNIT

SHEILA SEEPERSAUD-JONES · CO-ORDINATOR

DUSHKA AHMAD

COVER DESIGN

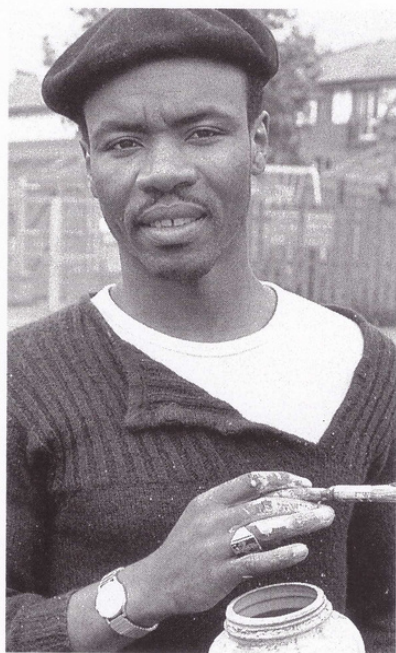


BRIXTON MURAL

TOM JOSEPH

Born 1947 in Delices, Dominica, West Indies. Emigrated to London in 1955. Studied on Foundation course, Central School of Art 1967 and enrolled at Slade School of Art 1968.

- 1971 Artist in residence at the Black House, Holloway Road.
- 1972 Group Show, the Abeng Centre, Brixton; painted backdrops for the Keskidee Centre, London.
- 1976 Exhibited with Islington Art Circle and Royal Society of Oil Painters.
- 1983 Organised and exhibited in first Exhibition of Contemporary Black Artists, Brixton.
- 1984 Exhibited at Barbican Centre, London (one-man show). Into the Open, Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield. Show toured North of England for 4 months.
- 1985 Group show at Bluecoat gallery, Liverpool.
Group show at Chapter Gallery, Cardiff.



GAVIN JANTJES

Born 1948 in Cape Town, South Africa. Studied Graphic design and free Graphic Art at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, from 1966 to 1969.

- 1967- Taught at the Childrens' Art Centre Cape Town and worked as a graphic designer.
- 1970- Awarded a D.A.A.D. scholarship to study at the Staatliche Hochschule für bildende Künste in Hamburg.
- 1972
- 1976 Worked with the Print Collective at Tolmers Square in London

SELECTED ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 1970 The Artists Gallery in Cape Town
- 1976 Institute for Contemporary Arts ICA in London.
Ecumenical Centre World Council of Churches in Geneva.
University of Lund, Sweden.
Sonja Henie Art Centre Hovikodden in Oslo.
- 1977 Provinciehuis Groningen in Holland.
Free University 100 days at the Documenta 6 in Kassel.
- 1978 Kulturhuset in Stockholm.
Göteborgs Museum.
- 1979 Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin.
- 1980-
- 1983 Edward Totah gallery in London.
- 1984 Midland Group Gallery in Nottingham.
- 1985 Westbourn Gallery London
Black Arts gallery London.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1968-
- 1969 The Artists Gallery in Cape Town
- 1977 Figra 2 in Leipzig.
- 1979 Ljubljana biennale in Yugoslavia.
- 1982 Culture and Resistance Festival National Museum Gaborone in Botswana.
British Print Biennale in Bradford.
- 1983 Prophecy and Vision Arnolfini in Bristol.
15 Artists against Apartheid Gallery Maeght in Paris, Royal Academy in London and travelling Art contre Apartheid Foundation Nationale des Arts et Plastiques in Paris.
- 1984 Into the Open Mappin Gallery in Sheffield.



TOWER HAMLETS MURAL

DUSHKA AHMAD

Born in London in 1960. Educated at St. Andrews, North Harrow, where she studied English, History, Sociology and Economics, and then at the Lowlands Sixth Form College.

1981-1984 Higher BTEC with merit, Chelsea School of Art.
1984 Awarded Licentiatehip of The Society of Designer-Craftsmen.

EXHIBITIONS

1984 Nov-Jan "Young Blood", Barbican Art Gallery, London.
Jun Seven Dials Art Gallery, Covent Garden, London.
Jun-July Chelsea, Hugon Road.
1985 July Chelsea, Manresa Road.
Feb Henry Thomas Gallery, Carmarthen, Wales.



SHANTI PANCHAL

Shanti Panchal was born in Gujarat, India in 1951. He studied at Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay and graduated with D.T.C. (Drawing Teacher's Course) 1971, G.I.Art (Gov. Dip. in Painting) 1976, and A.I. (Art Master) in 1977. During his studies he claimed First Class First throughout his training, leading on to claim an award of Fellowship at the same school in 1976. He also worked as a visiting artist at the Abha Academy, Bombay, 1972-76.

He participated in many National and International exhibitions. He lectured at Sir J.J. School of Art and Sophia College Polytechnic, Bombay, 1976-78. In 1978 he was awarded British Council Scholarship to study Post-Diploma, London. He now lives and works in London. He was one of four Indian painters commissioned by the Indian High Commission at India House to restore their mural in tempura. He was invited by the Whitechapel Art Gallery to work as Artist in Residence at Bluegate Fields School, London 1983. He participated in the exhibition "Art Within Reach" at Air Gallery and Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, an Arts Council touring exhibition organized by the Public Art Development Trust. He has just completed the Residency at Idshall Comprehensive School in Shifnal, Shropshire, organized by Ikon Gallery.

ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

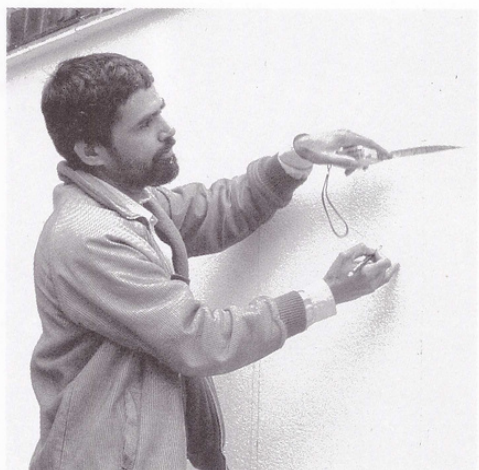
1978 Jehangir Art Gallery, Bombay.
Sanskar Kendra Museum, Ahmedabad.
Avadh Art Gallery, Lucknow.
1979 India House, London.
The British Council, London.
1980 Arts 38 Gallery, London
1983 October Gallery, London.
1984 St. Botolph's, Aldgate (organized by Whitechapel Art Gallery).

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1973 Maharashtra State Art Exhibition.
1974 Bombay Art Society.
1975 Maharashtra State Art Exhibition.
Bombay Art Society.
1977 Cymroza Art Gallery, Bombay.
Art Society of India.
Artist's Centre Gallery, Bombay.
1978 Contemporary Monsoon Show.
Jehangir Art Gallery, Bombay.
International Spiritual Exhibition, New Delhi.
Bombay Art Society.
Art Society of India.
1980 Arts 38 Gallery, London.
Asian Youth Festival, Commonwealth Institute, London.
Grand Prix International D'Art Contemporain Monte Carlo, Monaco.
Royal Overseas League, London.
1981 William Morris Gallery, London.
IAUK Art Gallery, Mayfair, London.
Royal Overseas League.
1982 Royal Academy of Arts, Summer Exhibition, London
Whitechapel Open Exhibition.
Gallerie Nina Dausset, Paris.
RIPW Exhibition, Mall Galleries.
Barbican Concourse Gallery, London.
1984 Camden Open Exhibition, London.
Art Within Reach, Air Gallery, London.
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham.
Whitechapel Open Exhibition.
Bankside Gallery, London.
Royal Overseas League, London.

AWARDS

1971 Kala-Deep Sir J.J. School of Art.
1973 Maharashtra State Art Exhibition.
1974 Bombay Art Society.
1975 Scholarship, Rotary Club.
International, Bombay.
Bombay Art Society.
1976 Fellowship, Sir J.J. School of Art.
Maharashtra State Art Exhibition
Bombay Art Society.
1977 Art Society of India.
Artist's Centre, Bombay.
1978 International Spiritual Exhibition, New Delhi.
Art Society of India.
The British Council Scholarship.
1981 Royal Overseas League.
1982 Bursary by GLAA.
Sir Ernest Cassel Award, ROL
1983 Chris Beetles Award, Contemporary British Watercolour
Exhibition, Bankside Gallery, London.
First Prize by ROL, London.
1984 Countess Enid Driscoll-Spalletti Memorial Prize, ROL
London.



GLC
Working for London
Reminder Vir OBE Black & Ethnic Arts Archive
www.reminder.org.uk



SOUTHALL MURAL

CHILA KUMARI BURMAN

- 1978 B.A. Hons First Class, (Graphics, Printmaking), Leeds Poly.
- 1982 M.A. Fine Arts. Slade School of Fine Art, University College London.

EXHIBITIONS

- 1980 Nov Group Show. St. Pauls Gallery, Leeds
- 1981 Jan "New Contemporaries", Institute of Contemporary Arts.
- June Stavells Trophy, Royal Academy of Art, London.
- July Soma Black Book Fair, Brent.
- Nov Third World Artists, London School of Economics.
- 1982 April Slade Printmakers' Show, Minsky's Gallery, London.
- May Indian Artists Group Show, "William Morris Gallery"
- June Four Indian Womens' Show", Indian High Commission.
- 1983 June "Festival of India" Group Show, Concourse Gallery, Barbican.
- Sept Battersea Arts Centre Open Exhibition.
- Nov "Black Woman Time Now", Battersea Arts Centre.
- Dec "Creation for Liberation", Brixton Art Gallery.
- 1984 Jan Leeds Feminist Photography Group Show, Pavilion, Leeds.
- June "Creation for Liberation", Brixton Art Gallery.
- July Asian + Afro-Caribbean Show, Woodlands Art Gallery.
- 1985 March Southall Black Sisters Centre, Group Show.
- April "Celebration and Demonstration", St. Mathews Meeting Place.
- June Havelock Centre, S.A.A.C. Festival, Southall.
- July Hounslow Community Centre, "HAVOC SHOW" Group.

INTERVIEWS / ARTICLES

- 1982 July Interviewed on Gharbar BBC2. One of 4 Indian woman artists.
- 1983 Jan Article and prints published in "Black Women + Creativity", Sheba.
- Feb Article on being an Indian woman artist published in Spare-Rib.
- June Article "Black Woman Artists at the Africa Centre", Outwrite.

ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1982 Sept Illustrated tape slide "Stepping Out of Frame" for Amina Patel.
- 1983 Aug Illustrated "Maulvi and the Ass" for Channel Four TV.

REVIEWS

Works published in Black Press, Standard, Artrage, Arts Review, Art Monthly, Spare-Rib.

WORKSHOPS

- 1982 Jan Workshop leader for course on the representation of Asian women at Avery Hill College, subsequently published in Art-Rage Magazine.

Workshops in Wood Green Community Centre, Hounslow, Islington Girls Project, Camden Community Centre, Camden Girls' and Black Womens' Festivals.

Course Tutor in Video Techniques at Hounslow Asian Womens' Centre.



KEITH PIPER

Raised in Birmingham.

- 1975-1979 Highgate Comprehensive, Birmingham.
- 1979-1980 Foundation course, Art & Design, Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventy.
- 1980-1983 B.A. Hons Fine Art, Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham.
- 1984-1986 MA Environmental Media, The Royal College of Art, London.

EXHIBITIONS

Since 1980, Keith Piper has worked in association with a group of young Black artists who have committed their work to the international and national struggles of Black people for liberation.

They have jointly staged the following exhibitions.:

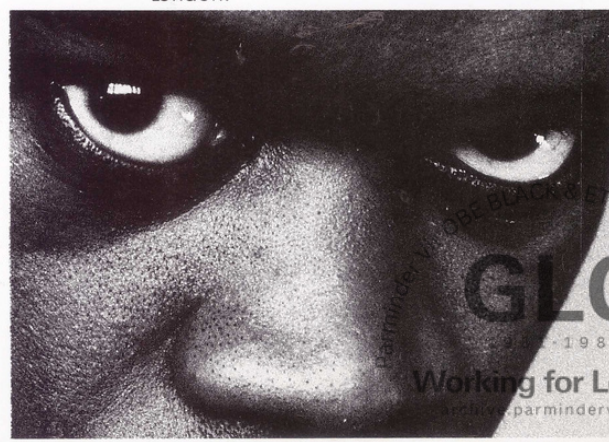
- 1981 June "Black Art An' Done", Wolverhampton Art Gallery.
- 1982 June "The Pan-African Connection", Africa Centre, Covent Garden, London.
- July "The Pan-African Connection", Ikon Gallery, Birmingham.
- Oct "The Pan-African Connection", Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham.
- Nov "The Pan-African Connection", 38 King St Gallery, Bristol.
- 1983 Jan-Feb "The Pan-African Connection", Midland Groupo, Nottingham.
- Jan-Feb Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham.
- Feb-Mar "The Pan-African Connection", Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry
- May-Jun "The Pan-African Connection", Africa Centre, Covent Garden.
- 1984 Feb "The Pan-African Connection", Battersea Arts Centre, London.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

- 1983 Sept "Heart In Exile", The Black-Art Gallery, London.
- 1984 Jan "Black Art Now", The Black-Art Gallery, London.
- Aug-Sept "Into The Open", Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield.
- Sept-Oct "Into The Open", Castle Museum, Nottingham.
- Nov "Into The Open", Newcastle Media Workshops, Newcastle.
- 1985 Jan-Feb "New Horizons", GLC Royal Festival Hall, London.
- Apr-May "Black Skin, Blue Coat", Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool.
- May "No More Little White Lies", Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff.

ONE PERSON EXHIBITION

- 1984 June-July "Past Imperfect, Future Tense": An exhibition of work by Keith Piper. The Black-Art Gallery, London.



NOTTINGHILL MURAL

R. A. LUBAINA HIMID

Lubaina Himid was born in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in 1954.

- 1973-76 Foundation course & Theatre Design course. B.A. in Theatre Design, Wimbledon Art School, London.
- 1976-80 Designed various fringe theatre productions and restaurant interiors including Derek Walcotts "Pantomime" and "Tuttons" in Covent Garden.
- 1980-82 Gallery co-ordinator at Tuttons, South of the Border and Battersea Arts Centre Cafe.
- 1982 Youth worker in Wandsworth.
- 1982-84 M.A. Royal College of Art in Cultural History. Thesis title: "Young Black Artists in Britain Today".
- 1983-85 Exhibitions organiser "Black Women at the Africa Centre", "Black Woman Time Now". Selector for "Into the Open" and New Contemporaries 84 I.C.A. Part-time worker at Wandsworth Policies Campaign including "People and the Police" video.

EXHIBITIONS

- 1980 "Tuttons", Covent Garden.
- 1983 "5 Black Women at the Africa Centre". "Black Woman Time Now", Battersea.
- 1984 "Into the Open" "Heroes & Heroines", Black-Art Gallery
- 1985 "New Horizons", Festival Hall Triangle Art Centre, Birmingham

VISITING LECTURE AT

Sheffield Polytechnic
Newcastle Polytechnic
Leeds University
St Martin School of Art
Byam Shaw School of Art



SIMONE MICHELLE ALEXANDER

Born in London in 1964, Simone Alexander was educated at Ensham Comprehensive, Tooting Broadway and then at Brixton College where she studied Art and took a Pre-Foundation Art course.

- 1982-83 Foundation course, Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, London.
- 1983-86 London Diploma in Art and Design (Fine Art) / Byam Shaw Diploma in Fine Art, Byam Shaw School of Art, London.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Addresses and Telephone numbers for the artists may be obtained from:

The Race Equality Unit,
Department for Recreation and The Arts,
The County Hall,
London SE1 7PB

Tel: 01-633 2611
01-633 5014

Photography Annette Carty

