

# THE CAISO Quarterly

FEBRUARY 2025  
ISSUE 5

## 3RD ANNUAL LGBTQI+ ART EXHIBITION

Our Truth | Our Healing |  
Our Expressions

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## FUNDRAISER - SILENT AUCTION

Artwork still available

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## INCLUSIVE FUTURES

Public Campaign - Advancing  
Gender & Sexual Justice

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## NEW: READY SET KNOW

Your guide to navigating legal  
processes as an LGBTQI+ person in  
Trinidad and Tobago

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# FOREWORD

## Hello from the CAISO Team!



Hello friends of CAISO!

We're ecstatic to reconnect with you in 2025.

Last year was nothing short of remarkable—we achieved so much! From launching the Queer Archives to hosting impactful workshops, webinars, and seminars, and celebrating the third edition of our Annual LGBTQI+ Art Show, 2024 was truly a milestone year.

We also marked 15 years as a feminist, LGBTQI+ organisation, and now, as we enter our Sweet 16, we're determined to make it unforgettable. We can't wait to share the exciting magic we're working on for this year!

In the meantime, we're delighted to present the latest edition of the CAISO Quarterly. We hope you enjoy it and share it with a friend. As always, we welcome your thoughts, so feel free to reach out to us with any comments or feedback.

With love and resistance,  
The CAISO Team





# 3RD ANNUAL LGBTQI+ ART EXHIBITION



We continued the great CAISO tradition for a third year in a row of the LGBTQI+ art Exhibition. The exhibition publicly ran from the 11th of December to 13th December at the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago, and featured 16 artists living in Trinidad and Tobago, who submitted their work responding to our call to engage in these thematic areas:

## OUR TRUTH | OUR HEALING | OUR EXPRESSIONS

This annual exhibition continued in its third year to celebrate and feature the diverse voices of the LGBTQI+ community in the world of art. It provided a safe/brave platform for LGBTQI+ artists to showcase their talent and share their stories and creativity.



Sapphire Seegulam  
Sapphic Symphony (2023)



Chinyere Brown and their piece, *Freedom and Ruins; a Beautiful Haunting* (2024)



# 3RD ANNUAL LGBTQI+ ART EXHIBITION



## OUR TRUTH | OUR HEALING | OUR EXPRESSIONS

The exhibition was co-curated by CAISO team members and artists - Shaden Alexander, Chinyere Brown, and Angelique Nixon.

The exhibition was launched at the CAISO's End of Year Celebration & Hard Head Award Fundraiser on Human Rights Day, Dec 10th and also featured an artist lime on Dec 13th. The majority of the sales proceeds went directly to the artists, while 10% of sales were contributed to CAISO to support the Community Food Bank.

We are deeply grateful to the participating artists, supporters, and everyone who made this year's exhibition a success. As we look ahead, we remain committed to nurturing this platform for LGBTQI+ artists and ensuring that their stories continue to be seen, heard, and valued.

### List of Featured Artists 2024:

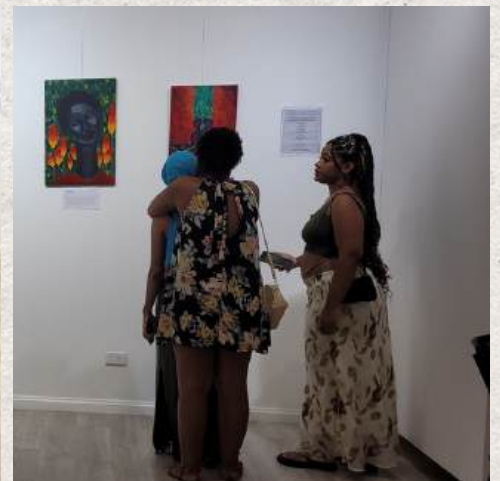
- AJ Rogers
- Angelique V. Nixon
- Carissa Bruce
- Chinyere Brown
- Daniel Blaize
- Johannah Rae Reyes
- Louis Chin
- Maya K. Ramesar
- Naajah Phillips
- Natasha Mahabir-Persad
- Nixs
- Sapphire Seegulam
- Shaden Alexander
- Shania Reyes
- Shalini Seereeram
- Warren Kendal Chanansingh



# 3RD ANNUAL LGBTQI+ ART EXHIBITION



**OUR TRUTH | OUR HEALING | OUR EXPRESSIONS**







# SILENT ART AUCTION



As part of the fundraising effort for the Hard Head Award, we invited each artist to contribute one piece of their artwork for our silent auction, which was held during the exhibition. The auction was a success with 8 pieces sold out of the 11 pieces donated. And so we have three pieces available for bidding.

For more information about the pieces up for auction, please contact us for further details.



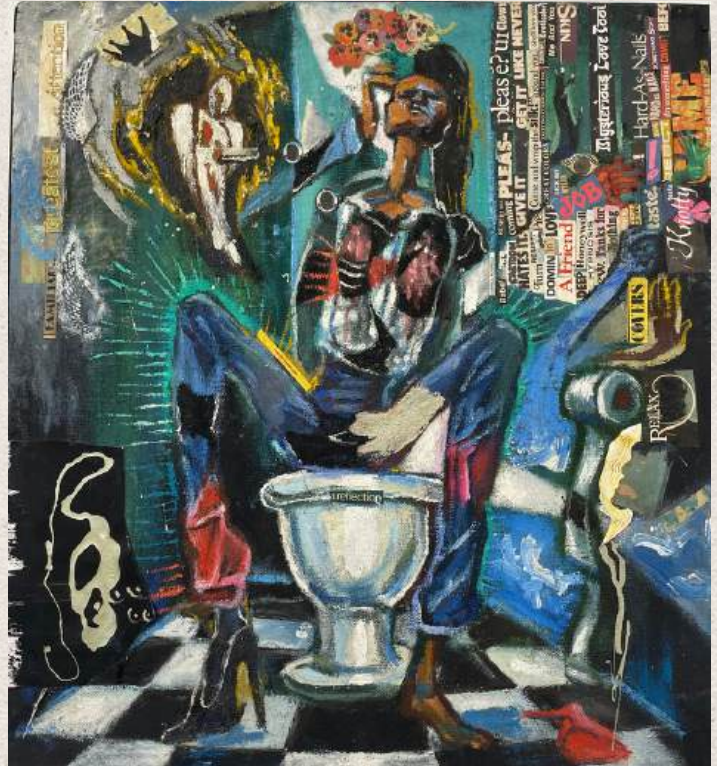


# SILENT ART AUCTION

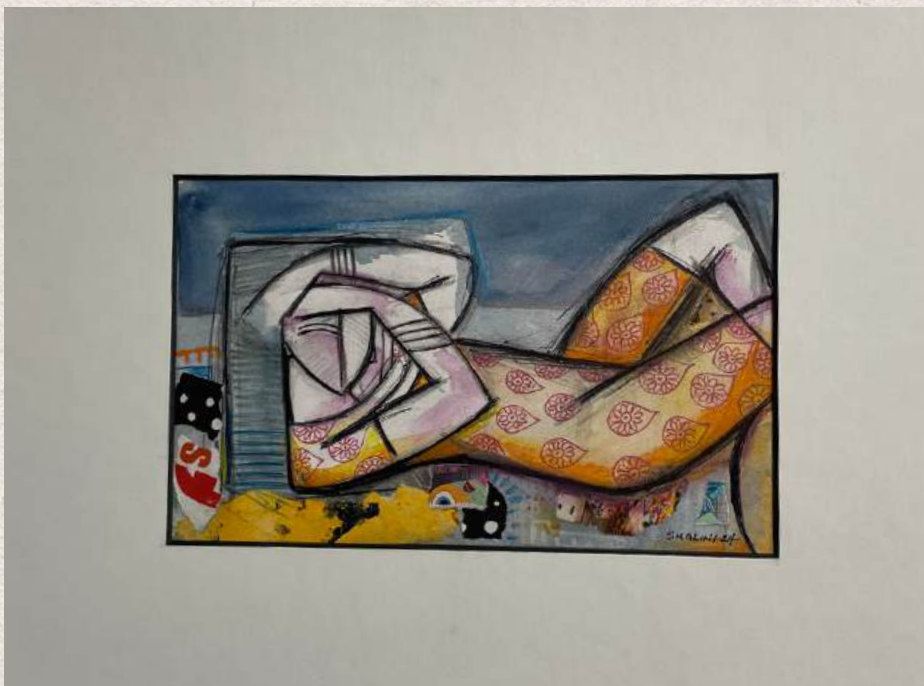
Pieces Still Available for the Silent Auction



Carrisa Bruce Mama Glow \$2,000



Maya K. Ramesar Business \$1,000



Shalini Seereeram Healing \$1,200



# QUEER ARCHIVES TT IS LIVE



Have you visited the Queer Archives TT website yet?



The Queer Archives of Trinidad and Tobago provides an exciting glimpse of Trinidad and Tobago's queer history (westory) from the 1960s to the present. These archives include two significant collections:

The guide welcomes contributions from anyone wishing to share LGBTQI+ westory. Additionally, it is updated regularly, so be sure to check back soon for the latest updates.

**The Cyrus Sylvester Digital Collection**

**Timeline of LGBTQI+ T&T History**

## DID YOU KNOW?

For more stories about Trinidad and Tobago's rich LGBTQI+ history please visit the Queer Archives TT.

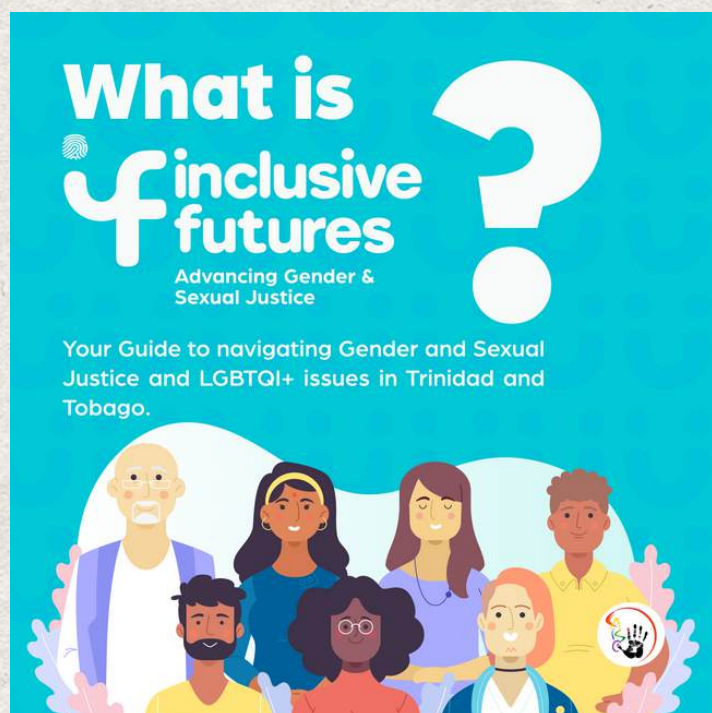
### **Cocoyea Village Raid (1976)**

In 1976 Police raided a house party hosted by Kelvin Mason in Cocoyea Village, San Fernando, arrested 41 gay men and a 16-year-old girl and charged them with indecent behaviour and marijuana possession. Thirty of the men were allegedly doing drag. Attendees included Raymond Choo Kong, Ronald Guy James, Arlene Karim, and Patrick Williams (nephew of then Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams).

[queerarchivestt.org](http://queerarchivestt.org)



# HAPPENING NOW: INCLUSIVE FUTURES



Feeling overwhelmed by the news lately? You're not alone.

With so much misinformation spreading about LGBTQI+ people, it's more important than ever to share truth, support, and hope. That's where the **Inclusive Futures** Campaign comes in.

Each week, via the CAISO social media pages, we break down myths, challenge harmful narratives, and offer clarity in a world that can feel confusing. Together, we can push back against fear with facts and compassion.

Follow us and be part of the change.

Follow Us On Social Media

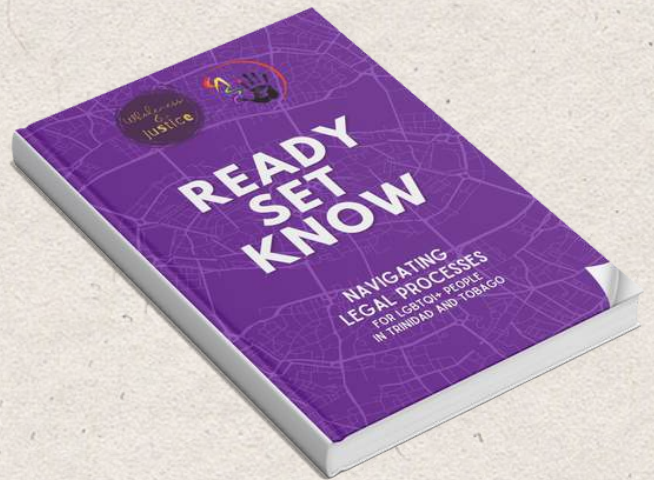




# READY SET KNOW: NAVIGATING LEGAL PROCESSES



Have you felt overwhelmed by legal processes in Trinidad and Tobago as a member of the LGBTQI+ community? You are not alone. Our newest guide, created by the Wholeness and Justice team, is designed to make legal processes clearer and more accessible.



Whether you need information, support, or just a place to start, *Ready Set Know: Navigating Legal Processes for LGBTQI+ people in Trinidad & Tobago* is here for you. Click [here](#) to access the guide!

## WHOLENESS & JUSTICE PHILOSOPHY OF CARE

The Wholeness and Justice philosophy and framework is decolonial, feminist, queer, trans, and class conscious.

Our philosophy of care prioritises those most marginalised because of sex and gender (diverse genders and sexualities, people living with HIV, and sex workers).

Our approach to wholeness and justice is situated in the understanding that in order to activate legal and political forms of justice, one must also include support for psycho-social care and basic needs.



Scan here to access the guide



# READY SET KNOW: NAVIGATING LEGAL PROCESSES



## SHARE SPACE: NAVIGATING LEGAL PROCESSES FOR LGBTQI+ PEOPLE

To help you navigate the guide - our Wholeness and Justice Team will be hosting a Share Space whereby participants will be engaged on how to move through the guide and best practices for navigating legal processes.



### Share Space

Navigating Legal Processes for  
LGBTQI+ People

At this session, participants will be engaged on how to move through Wholeness & Justice's most recent guide, "Navigating Legal Processes For LGBTQI+ People in Trinidad & Tobago", and best practices for navigating these processes.

**Thursday 20 Feb 2025**  
**6:30pm - 8:00pm**

*This virtual session will be led by Wholeness and Justice's legal team, Community Lawyer Danielle A. Jones and Programme & Research Officer, kellog nkemakolam.*

Danielle A. Jones      kellog nkemakolam

Register via Zoom 

Sign Language Interpretation available 

Thursday 20th Feb

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Registration via Zoom

**REGISTER**



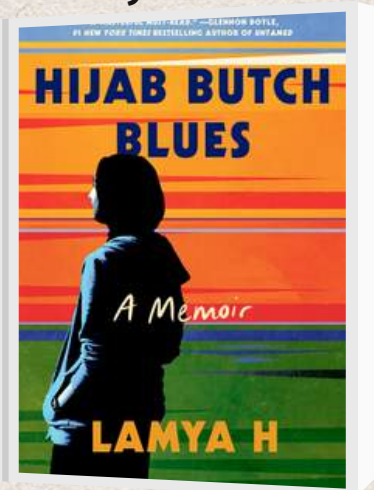


# QUEER MEDIA REC'S FROM THE TEAM

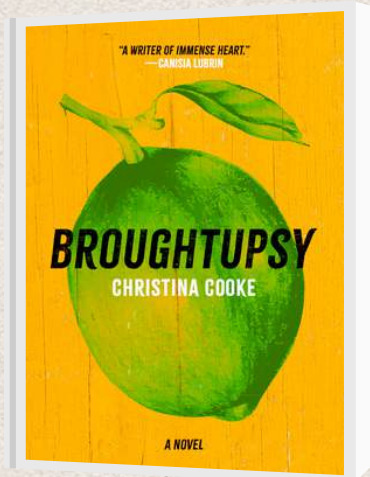
The team at CAISO has some fantastic Queer Media Recommendations to share with you!

Take a look at our suggestions below:

*Hijab Butch Blues*  
Lamya H



*Broughtupsy*  
Christina Cooke



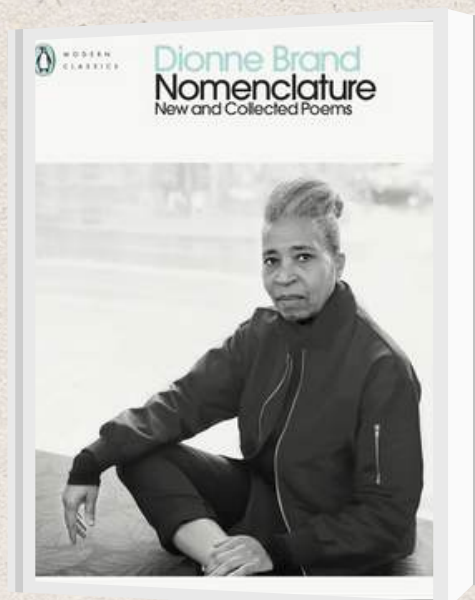
*Interview with the Vampire (2022)*



*I Saw the TV Glow*  
(2024)



*Nomenclature: New and Collected Poems*  
Dionne Brand





# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



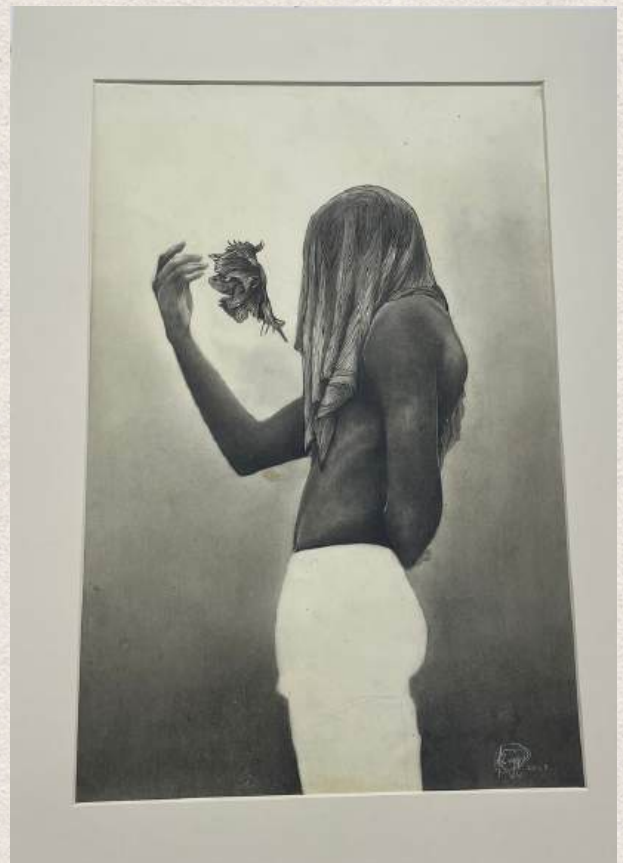
## AJ Rogers

he/him



AJ Rogers, is a creative vessel navigating the realms of life and mixed media, he draws inspiration from home life which is the vibrant tapestry of Mayaro, a place where he can reflect and where nature intertwines harmoniously. His art reflects the subtle nuances of life and the depth of human emotion, offering viewers an invitation to journey alongside me through the boundless landscapes of imagination and expression.

With a background in Digital Media Studies, specializing in 2D traditional animation, He has honed a multidisciplinary approach to storytelling. This foundation has allowed him to craft narratives that transcend mediums, capturing moments of raw authenticity and profound beauty. AJ's work has reached international audiences, with projects commissioned by clients in the UK and Canada. This global exposure has enriched this creative artistic perspective, infusing his creations with diverse cultural influences and innovative techniques.



Caught Between Worlds  
Graphite and inks on mixed media paper  
14.5" x 20"



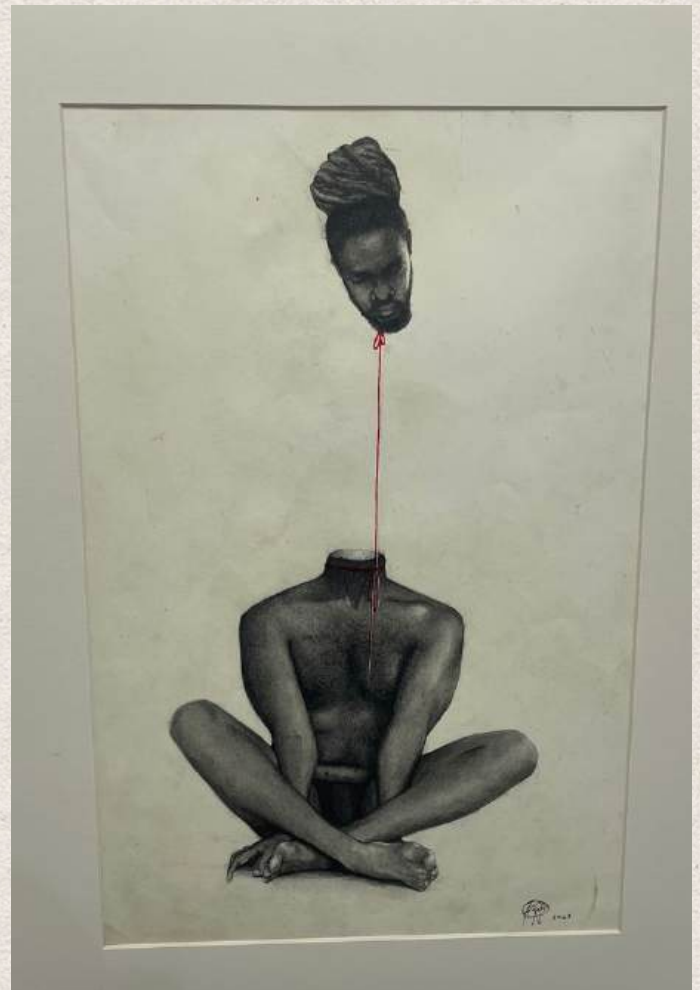
# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



In his practice, AJ aims to bridge the worlds, weaving them into a cohesive narrative that speaks to universal themes of identity, resilience, and connection. His work has been exhibited at esteemed institutions such as the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago and Medulla Art Gallery, alongside numerous other venues. "These exhibitions have been pivotal in sharing my vision with a wider audience, fostering dialogue and inspiring introspection" AJ says.

Through his art, he strives to create a sanctuary for reflection, where each piece becomes a portal to explore the complexities of human existence. By blending selected color, textured layers, and emotive storytelling,

AJ seeks to evoke a sense of wonder and curiosity, inviting viewers to look beyond the surface and uncover deeper truths. His journey as an artist is one of perpetual exploration, fueled by an unwavering passion for creativity and a desire to connect with the world through meaningful expression.



The Severance of the Tethered Identity  
Graphite and inks on mixed media  
paper  
14.5" x 20"



@ajjr112



# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



## Warren Chanansingh

he/him



Warren Chanansingh is an abstract conceptual artist hailing from the vibrant culture of South Trinidad. His journey into art began with an appreciation for the myriad ways it mirrors life's complexities. For Warren, life itself is abstract—a fluid interplay of experiences, connections, and emotions. This belief fuels his artistic practice, where oil paint becomes his medium to explore and express the unseen layers of human interaction and emotion.

Deeply inspired by the personalities, auras, and lived experiences of those around him, Warren's work delves into the profound impact individuals and communities have on one another. Through sweeping gestures, intricate textures, and bold hues, his art becomes a visual dialogue on themes of love, identity, conflict, and connection. As a queer artist, Warren's pieces often serve as a testament to the intricacies of queer love and relationships, blending vulnerability with resilience.

By embracing abstraction, Warren transcends literal representation, inviting viewers to interpret and connect with his art on a deeply personal level. Each piece becomes an open conversation, reflecting not just his perspective but also the diverse stories of those who engage with it. Warren's mission is simple yet profound: to use art as a vessel for exploring humanity in all its messy, beautiful, and dynamic forms.



# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



## Warren Chanansingh

he/him



Mitchell (2024)  
Oil on Canvas  
35" x 12"

Syki (2024)  
Oil on Canvas  
35" x 12"



@zabocaman



@Warren Chanansingh



@zabocaman



@Warren Chanansingh



# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



## Carrisa/Creative Queen

she/they



The name creative Queen comes from me believing in my uniqueness and celebrating my power that we possess within. I'm a queer, neurodivergent black woman who because of her struggle is inspired to celebrate women and all the obstacles we face but conquer despite the odds. I'm also a disrupter that will not settle for the way things have always been, but I wish to hold space for conversation that inspired change.



Dream State (2024)  
Mixed Media  
22" x 30"



# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



## Carrisa/Creative Queen

she/they



Caught Between Worlds  
Graphite and inks on mixed media paper  
14.5" x 20"



Bend like Water (2024)  
Watercolor  
22" x 30"



@creative\_queen



@creativequeentt





# MEET OUR TEAM



**DR ANGELIQUE V NIXON**, she/her  
**DIRECTOR**



**OMAR MOHAMMED**, he/him  
**DIRECTOR**



**CATHERINE SHEPHERD**, she/her  
**DIRECTOR**



**ALESSANDRA HEREMAN**, she/her  
**DIRECTOR**



**ELRON ELAHIE**, he/him  
**ADVISOR**



**JOSH DRAYTON**, he/him  
**ADVISOR**



**RAE ALIBEY**, she/her  
**COMMUNITY CASEWORKER**



**DONIELLE JONES**, she/her  
**COMMUNITY LAWYER**



**AKILAH RILEY-RICHARDSON**, she/her  
**COMMUNITY THERAPIST**



**PSYCHE GONZALES**, she/her  
**FINANCIAL MANAGER**



**JOHANNAH-RAE REYES**, she/her  
**PROJECT + COMMUNITY OUTREACH**



**KELLOG NKEMAKOLAM**, he/they  
**PROGRAMME + RESEARCH OFFICER**



**CHINYERE BROWN**, she/they  
**RESEARCH + PROGRAMME ASSOCIATE**



**CHANEL MOOSAN**, she/they  
**CONTENT + SOCIAL MEDIA**



# SAY HELLO

to our phenomenal volunteers!



**NIKOLI ATTAI, he/him**  
QUEER ARCHIVES PROJECT



**DOMINIQUE ABSALOM, she/her**  
RESEARCH + PROJECTS



**TAYLOR LUTCHMAN, she/her**  
RESEARCH + PROJECTS



**FRANCISCA FERRET, she/they**  
RESEARCH + PROJECTS



**ANANDA RAMSINGH, she/her**  
RESEARCH + PROJECTS



**SHADEN ALEXANDER, they/them**  
EVENTS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**CHANDELLE O'NEIL, they/them**  
COMMUNITY BUILDING



**JO JOHNSON, she/her**  
PROJECTS + MEDIA



## WANT TO SUPPORT?

- Become a **Resource Volunteer!**
- **Donate to CAISO** via our First Citizens Bank Account!
- Become a **Projects or Events Volunteer:** email us at [outreach@caisott.org](mailto:outreach@caisott.org) to learn more.

## WANT TO DONATE?



- Name: **CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice**
- Bank: **First Citizens Bank**
- Account No: **2415395**
- Account Type: **Chequing**

Please email us at [info@caisott.org](mailto:info@caisott.org) with your donation information and indicate whether the donation is for **Community Food Support, Client Emergency Support, or any other Operational Support.**

## WANT TO CONNECT?

-  [caisott.org](http://caisott.org)
-  [outreach@caisott.org](mailto:outreach@caisott.org) or [info@caisott.org](mailto:info@caisott.org)
-  1-868-28-CAISO or 1-868-384-9557
-  1 Robinson Ville, Belmont

## NEED SERVICES?

-  [wholenessandjustice@caisott.org](mailto:wholenessandjustice@caisott.org)
-  1-868-28-CAISO or 1-868-384-9557

Reach us on your favourite social media platforms, follow [@caisott](https://www.instagram.com/caisott) today!

