

LIVING ART



"Outpouring at the Door of No Return" from the Ghana series.



*J. Barnaby photos
Guest Speaker Edmund Barry Gaither, museum director, National centre of African American Artists speaks about McFarlane's work during the opening ceremony.*

Brian McFarlane exhibits at Mutual Gallery

BY NICOLA CUNNINGHAM

In continuing its effort to showcase Jamaican art at its best, the Mutual Gallery opened Bryan McFarlane's latest exhibition on Thursday, October 12.

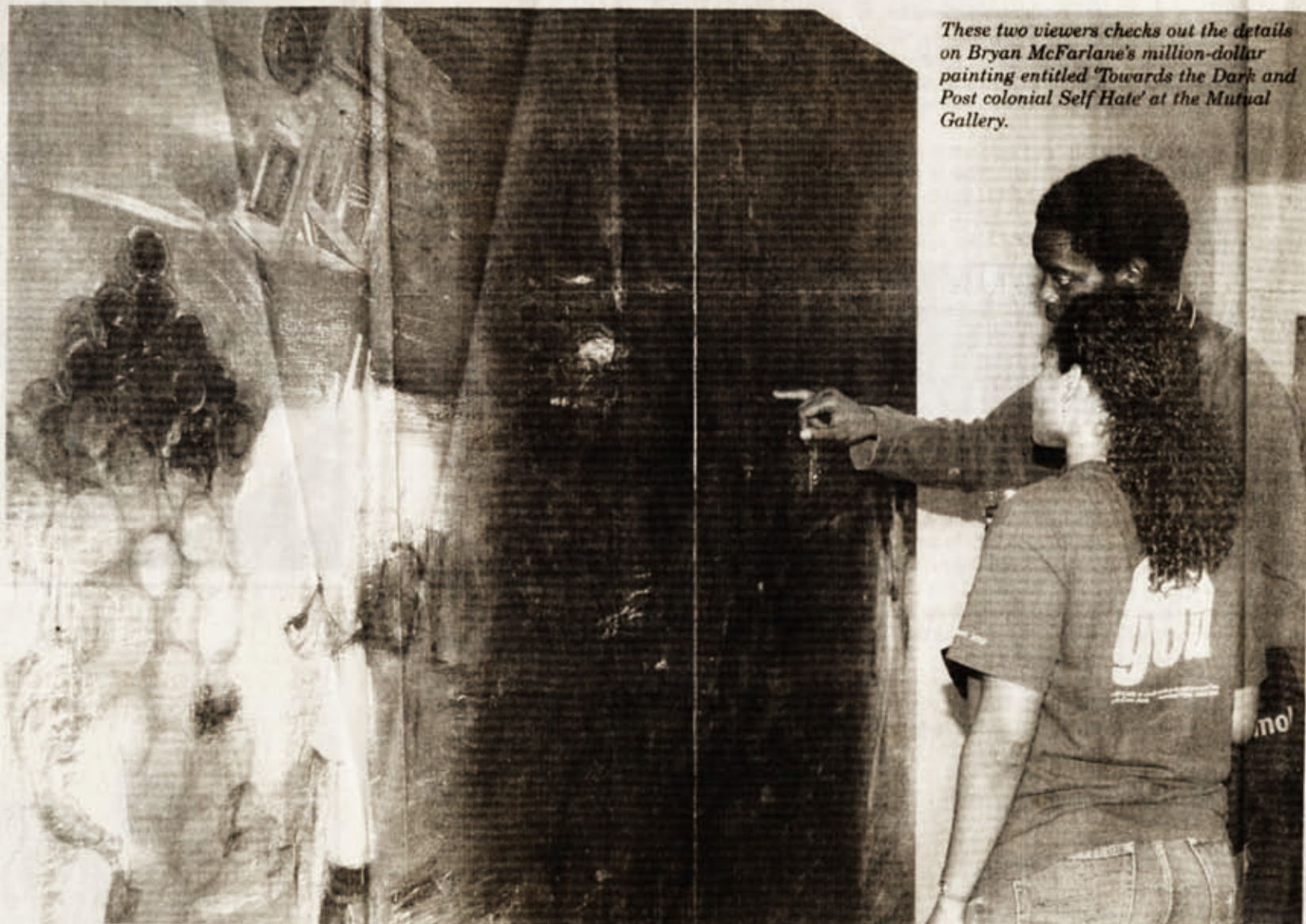
Twenty-three pieces, all oil on linen, graced the walls of the gallery. McFarlane, who is a professor of painting and drawing at the University of Massachusetts, drew on his Caribbean roots and Jamaican childhood for this collection. This collection examines many themes and recurring motifs central to fertility and the birth of new ideas and expression. Many of his pieces are vibrant and explode with colours while a few seem dark and ominous in its conveyance of emotion.

Popular conversation pieces including 'Nesting I', 'Towards The Dark' and 'Postcolonial Self Hate', 'Floating Ritual Object', 'Outpouring at the Door of No Return' and 'Interior Mystery with Piss Pot'.

Guest speaker, Edmund Barry Gaither, director of the Museum of the National Centre of African American Artists, said that he has been following McFarlane's work for close to three decades. He feels McFarlane's present work is rich in images that emerge from his many travels overseas and his reflections on the post colonial struggle of his generation of Caribbean-born artists. Hence, the metaphors that fill his canvases connect us across continents, linking the urban and the rural, the secular and the sacred.

Gaither then left the podium and literally walked guests through a visual interpretation of some of McFarlane's pieces. "When I look at Brian's work, it makes me think of creativity. I am always amazed at the inexhaustive nature of an artist's creativity. What is significant and interesting about Brian pieces is that it has been rooted in his heritage, the maroon portion of his upbringing, the post slavery/post colonial world that characterised what it is to become yourself."

McFarlane explained that his current work deals with much of the permanent and fleeting aspects of time. "I see time as a mythical phenomena overlapping scientific and measured time. My work is about how art and artifacts of diverse cultures have similar functions and meaning yet may cause conflicts depending on personal and cultural perspectives. My work celebrates diverse cultures and their connectiveness." ■



These two viewers checks out the details on Bryan McFarlane's million-dollar painting entitled 'Towards the Dark and Post colonial Self Hate' at the Mutual Gallery.