SELEBRASYON!
PRESENTED BY HAITI CULTURAL EXCHANGE

NEW YORK’S CELEBRATION OF
HAIITIAN ART & CULTURE

Dance • Film • Literature & Spoken Word • Music • Visual Arts

MAY 18–JUNE 30, 2014
This June, *Haiti Cultural Exchange* celebrates five years of cultural programming rooted in community, collaboration and dialogue. *Selebrasyon!, New York's Festival of Haitian Arts & Culture*, unites our signature programs and builds partnerships with over 20 organizations and 30 artists in venues city-wide. HCX was founded in 2009 with the vision of creating a space for Haitian artists and culture to thrive and for diverse communities to come together. *Selebrasyon!* furthers this vision by highlighting the dynamic presence of Haitians and enabling artists to share their work while fostering new audiences.

*Selebrasyon!* will be the first festival of its kind in New York and I am thrilled that it includes pioneering presentations such as Haiti-based visual artist *Maksaens Denis’ MUTATION X062*, an experimental digital performance; a conversation with *Mimerose “Manze” Beaubrun* of the Grammy-nominated Haitian roots band *Boukman Eksperyans*; open studio tours with contemporary visual artists; and forums ranging from the evolution of Haitian dance, to movements of political resistance in the ’70s. *Selebrasyon!* is a testament to the vibrancy of Haitian culture and presents innovative programming rooted in a significant historic and socio-political context. The curatorial process reflects a deep belief in the role of the arts in addressing issues, ranging from political oppression to immigration, while prioritizing emerging artists working in Haiti and throughout the Diaspora.

This festival would not be possible without the individuals, sponsors, partners, and *Selebrasyon!* Advisory Committee members who have joined in support. Thank you all so much!

As we look toward the future of Haitian arts presentation, I am confident that we can continue to build upon this festival to foster greater collaboration and support. I am grateful for the opportunity to do this work – work that I love and care for deeply. Our artistic community is alive and teeming with passion. Let the *Selebrasyon* begin!
SELEBRASYON!

Presented by Haiti Cultural Exchange, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization established to develop, present and promote the cultural expressions of the Haitian people.

HAITICULTURALX.ORG | 347-565-4429 | 558 ST JOHNS PLACE BROOKLYN, NY 11238
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HAITIAN FLAG DAY SELEBRASYON!
Sunday, May 18 | Noon–6PM
Parkside Plaza | Ocean Ave & Parkside Ave
on Prospect Park | Brooklyn, NY 11225

AN N’ PALE | CAFÉ CONVERSATION
WITH HAITI-BASED SINGER &
AUTHOR MIMEROSE “MANZÈ”
BEAUBRUN | PERFORMANCE BY
BOUKMAN EKSPERYANS
Friday, May 23 | 6–11PM
FiveMyles Gallery | 558 St. Johns Place
Brooklyn, NY 11238

LACAYE HCX @ BAM | DANCEAFRICA
Saturday, May 24 | Noon–8PM
La Caye Restaurant | 35 Lafayette
Avenue | Brooklyn, NY 11217

LA RÈN SOLEY | U.S. FILM PREMIERE & LIVE MUSICAL TRIBUTE
TO MARTHA JEAN-CLAUDE, TOTO
BISSAINTHE AND LUMANE CASIMIR
Saturday, May 31 | 7–10PM
ShapeShifter Lab | 18 Whitwell Place
Brooklyn, NY 11215

VIZAJ NOU | U.S. FILM PREMIERE & LIVE PERFORMANCE
Tuesday, June 3 | 6–10PM
Kombit Restaurant | 279 Flatbush Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11217

KONPA NITE
Friday, June 6 | 6PM–Midnight
Brasserie Creole | 22702 Linden Blvd
Jamaica, NY 11411

LIRIK AVYITI: RASIN/CHIMEN
LYRIC HAITI: ROOTS/ROUTES
Sunday, June 8 | 6–7:30PM
Bowery Poetry Club | 308 Bowery
New York, NY 10012

ATIS ANGAJE FORUM
Wednesday, June 11 | 6–9PM
King Juan Carlos the I of Spain Center
53 Washington Square South
New York, NY 10003

COMMUNITY CURATED PROJECT
ISTWA DJAKOUT MWEN
(THE HISTORY OF MY DJAKOUT)
Saturday, June 14 | 1–3:30PM
FiveMyles Gallery | 558 St. Johns Place
Brooklyn, NY 11238

EVOLUTION | REVOLUTION: A PANEL DISCUSSION ON HAITIAN DANCE
Saturday, June 14 | 5–6:30PM
CUMBE | 558 Fulton Street, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11217

TASTE OF LA CAYE
Tuesday, June 17 | 6–8PM
La Caye Restaurant | 35 Lafayette
Avenue | Brooklyn, NY 11217

MUTATION X062 | INSTALLATION & PERFORMANCE BY HAITI-BASED
ARTIST MAKSAENS DENIS
Friday, June 20 | 7–9PM
FiveMyles Gallery | 558 St. Johns Place
Brooklyn, NY 11238

KRIK? KRAK!
STORYTELLING & SONGS
Saturday, June 21 | 4–5PM
Brooklyn Children’s Museum | 145 Brooklyn
Ave | Brooklyn, New York 11213

NO PASSPORT PARTY
Saturday, June 28 | Doors open at 9PM
DCTV | 87 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10013

HCX | OPEN STUDIO TOURS
Sundays throughout the festival.

SELEBRASYON! OUTDOOR ART INSTALLATION BY ENGELS
On view:
Saturday, May 17–Monday, June 30
FiveMyles Gallery | 558 St. Johns Place
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Visit the HCX | Boutik pop-up shops
during Selebrasyon! Featured merchandise include masks, mosaic bottles & paintings from Art Creation Foundation for Children in Jacmel, unique tobacco leaf houseware from the Artisan Business Network, Manny’s Sister vèvè totes and hand-dyed scarves, Gade Sa clutches, rare Haitian CDs, DVDs, and much more!
SELEBRASYON! OPENING NIGHT
EXCLUSIVE COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Hosted by HCX Board Members Sheila Guillaume & Fabrice J. Armand
Saturday, May 17 | 7–11PM | FiveMyles Gallery | 558 St. Johns Place | Brooklyn, NY 11238

7–8PM
Cocktails, Hors d’oeuvres and Silent Auction of “Selebrasyon!” donated by Michèle Voltaire Marcelin

8PM
Performances by Michèle Voltaire Marcelin & Brown Rice Family

MAY 17–JUNE 30

May 17–June 30th
Outdoor Art Installation by Engels. His use of found objects and meshing of movement and medium yield abstract work that evokes ideas of memory and spirituality.
HAITIAN FLAG DAY SELEBRASYON!

Sunday, May 18th | Noon–6PM
Parkside Plaza | Ocean Ave & Parkside Ave
A free outdoor celebration of Haitian culture with live dance performances, traditional drumming, vendors, crafts, and more!

PERFORMANCES BY
P.S. 189 Dance Ensemble directed by Rol’hans Innocent
Jocelyne Dorismé
Nadine LaFond

DANCE WORKSHOP BY
Julio Jean presented by CUMBE

MUSIC BY DJ Sabine Blaizin

FREE KID’S HAITIAN FLAG DAY CRAFTS!
Marketplace featuring Haitian & Afro-Diaspora artisan items & local businesses.
Raffle prizes! Giveaways! And more!

With co-hosts Rodneyse Bichotte, 42nd District Leader and State Committee Woman, poet Mr. Jeff Dess, Jeff “Mr. Community” Lindor, Elsie Saint-Louis of HAUP, and Carine Jocelyn of Diaspora Community Services.

HAITIAN FLAG DAY SELEBRASYON! IS PRESENTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ARTS AND CULTURE FEST.
My work depicts the humbleness of everyday life. Life is everywhere; sweet, simple, and sincere in direct vibration with nature. The vibration is not only in the market scene of the suburb, on the fishermen’s boats, or on the wharf with the sailors, but lies in a communication that is deeper.”

Eric Girault was born in Jeremie on Haiti’s southern peninsula, on December 4, 1937. Girault is called “The Vibration of Life” for the sensation viewers get from his work. Today, although he only has 25% of his foggy vision left, he continues to be inspired and creates art every day in his studio in New York City.

Mahalia Stines is a Haitian-American designer based in Brooklyn, NY. She describes her work as “Brooklyn meets the Tropics.” Creative Director and Designer for her store Manny’s Sister, Stines introduces vèvès into her interesting and colorful accessories to fit anyone’s personality and style, tying spirituality to fashion. Stines believes that “what we wear should [tell more] about who we are than the size of our bank accounts.”

Shakespeare Guirand was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

“As a young prince growing up, a sense of holiness blew over my mind. I always felt with wonder the energies and elements that surround us, so alive in this mystical land. My career as a mysticism artist started in Atlanta, Georgia, where the spirit comes at the end of my brushes. Always engaged, I went to live in Brooklyn, a major turning point in my artistic life.”

Shakespeare Guirand was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
“Making art for me starts with moments that immediately strike me as lessons. When the underlying tale begins to emerge, I follow that energy.”

Nadine LaFond is a Haitian-American painter and mixed media artist working on paper, canvas, wood and found objects, creating images that explore journey and dimension through the layering of symbols. Relying on cues from nature and personal experiences, her work layers the bird’s eye view and the eye-to-eye encounter at once.

“The time period following major social events, crises, upheavals, is particularly interesting to me; because at these crucial moments – those hours, days, weeks or months – we come together, regardless of ethnicity, gender, or class. We are able to respond to each other as human and nothing else. I have always been interested in events and issues that affect large groups of people simultaneously.”

The work is austere and playful in equal measure. The large groupings suggest a particular tension and mystery, yet the figures retain their own individual identity within a complex social structure.
AN N’ PALE | CAFÉ CONVERSATION
WITH SINGER & AUTHOR MIMEROSE “MANZÈ” BEAUBRUN

Friday, May 23 | 6–10PM | Free. $10 Suggested donation.
FiveMyles Gallery | 558 St. Johns Place | Brooklyn, NY 11238
Seating is limited, first come first serve.

MANZÈ BEAUBRUN, lead singer and co-founder of Boukman Eksperyans, will join us for a conversation about her new book Nan Domi: An Initiate’s Journey into Haitian Vodou, followed by a performance with Boukman Eksperyans. Known for their musical revolution, the Grammy-nominated group is a fusion of traditional Haitian and Caribbean rhythms with rock and reggae.

CONVERSATION MODERATED BY JOURNALIST JOEL DREYFUSS.

NAN DOMI: AN INITIATE’S JOURNEY INTO HAITIAN VODOU is the only account of Vodou’s private, mystical, interior practice that has been offered to the public so far. Its content stands in the same relation to ceremonial Vodou as Zen to conventional Buddhism, Sufism to conventional Islam, or the practice of the desert saints to conventional Christianity. Mimerose Beaubrun has been a student of Vodou for half of her life, and in this uniquely valuable work, she divests herself of all scholarly apparatus to speak from Vodou’s purest heart.

BOUKMAN EKSPERYANS, one of Haiti’s most celebrated mizik rasin bands, fuses traditional Haitian and Caribbean rhythms with rock and reggae. With a career spanning over two decades, Boukman revolutionized the Haitian music scene as part of the mizik rasin movement that emphasized a return to Haitian ancestral roots through music. Politically and spiritually based from the start, the group is active in Haiti’s pro-democracy movement; its members were named Peace and Goodwill Ambassadors by the UN in 2002. Their ability to build political awareness through their popular music is a powerful tool for the dissemination of knowledge and activating the public’s voice.
Saturday, May 24 | Noon–8PM | FREE
La Caye Restaurant | 35 Lafayette Avenue | Brooklyn, NY 11217
HCX and La Caye Restaurant team up at DanceAfrica for a special day of community fun with live music by Zing Experience and drink specials!

LA RÈN SOLÈY | U.S. FILM PREMIERE & LIVE MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO MARThA JEAN-CLAUDE, TOTO BISSAINTHE AND LUMANE CASIMIR

Saturday, May 31 | 7–10PM | $15
ShapeShifter Lab | 18 Whitwell Place | Brooklyn, NY 11215
The premiere screening of La Rèn Solèy, a film by Frantz Voltaire & Nitze Mathelier will include a post-screening discussion with Frantz Voltaire and live tribute performance with special female guest vocalists Riva Nyri Precil and Melanie J-B Charles accompanied by Buyu Ambroise & the Blues in Red Band.

La Rèn Solèy follows the history of legendary Haitian female musicians such as Lina Mathon Blanchet, Lumane Casimir, Emerante de Pradines, Martha Jean-Claude, and Toto Bissainthe.

Frantz Voltaire is the director of CIDIHCA, an information and documentation center for the Haitian, Caribbean, and Afro-Caribbean communities. He is also a historian and political scientist. Voltaire has worked on the realization of many documentaries including Pòtoprens Se Pam (1999) on the bicentennial of Port-au-Prince.

Riva Nyri Precil, born in Brooklyn and raised in Haiti. She was exposed to traditional Haitian music and culture, which greatly influenced her eclectic music and fashion palette. A singer, songwriter, dancer, jeweler, and artist, Riva has performed in various Haitian art and music events. She is currently working on her debut solo album which will be a fusion of traditional Haitian songs, soul, R&B and jazz elements.

Melanie J-B Charles is one of the most dynamic young voices of our time. A Haitian-American, Brooklyn native, singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, arranger & producer. Melanie is known widely for her jazz skill; her take on Haitian Rasin (Roots) sound has made her a tour-de-force at performances all over the world.

Buyu Ambroise & the Blues in Red Band’s improvisational spin on traditional Haitian polyrhythms weaves an exhilarating blend of experimental jazz harmonies and earworm solos on the bass, keyboard and drums. Jazz saxophonist Buyu Ambroise imports the infectious rhythms of konpa with the iconic American jazz of John Coltrane and Wayne Shorter.
Select screenings will be followed by a discussion with Gessica and musical performance by Sarah Dupuy with her take on folk, rock, and roots accompanied by her eclectic band.

**Vizaj Nou** is a documentary series created by actor & producer Gessica Généus featuring Anthony Pascal (Konpè Filo), Viviane Gauthier, Odette Roy Fombrun and Frankétienne.

Gessica Généus is best known for her on-screen performances in *I Love You, Anne* and *Le Président a-t-il le SIDA?* She also starred in Raoul Peck’s *Moloch Tropical*. Recently, she decided to get behind the camera. Vizaj Nou is one of her first directing and producing endeavors.

Sarah Dupuy is a first generation Haitian-American based in New York. Working with various traditional roots, rock and jazz bands, Sarah has gained a following on the Port-au-Prince music scene as well as in New York. Dupuy’s original compositions, written for voice and guitar, work to fuse the old with the new for a fresh take on Haitian troubadour.

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**Konpa Nite**

Friday, June 6 | 6PM–Midnight | Free. $10 suggested donation.
Brasserie Creole | 22702 Linden Blvd | Jamaica, NY 11411

Enjoy a discussion on the evolution of Konpa with your favorite musicians followed by an evening of dancing and the hottest Konpa tunes. Special invited guests include: Fanfan Tibot of Tabou Combo, Edy Brisseaux & Steve Desrosier.

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**Lirik Ayiti: Rasin/Chimen :: Lyric Haiti: Roots/Routes**

Sunday, June 8 | 6–7:30PM | $15
Bowery Poetry Club | 308 Bowery | New York, NY 10012

Join us for a night of spoken word, storytelling, and poetry highlighting the Haitian-American experience in New York. Hosted by poet Ayinde Jean-Baptiste and featuring performances by Lenelle Moïse & Patrick Sylvain.

Lenelle Moïse, the author of *Haiti Glass*, is an award-winning poet, playwright and performer. She creates jazz-infused, hip-hop bred, politicized texts about the intersection of identity, memory and spirit.

Patrick Sylvain is an author and educator who uses Haitian Creole and English with masterful skill, capturing moments and a deep romance with a place and its people.

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**Atis Angaje Forum**

Wednesday, June 11 | 6–9PM | Free. $10 suggested donation.
King Juan Carlos the I of Spain Center
53 Washington Square South | New York, NY 10003

Artists of the “Atis Angaje” movement will discuss their experiences and political work during the Duvalier regime as well as the impact of art as a political tool in the Diaspora. Co-presented with NYU’s Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies. With panelists Daniel Huttinot and Georges Vilson and video presentation by Lionel Legros.

Daniel Huttinot is one of the founding members of Troupe Kouidor, a leftist performance art ensemble that utilized their craft to raise awareness of political issues under the Duvalier regime. Huttinot was also a political analyst on “L’Heure Haïtienne” from 1973 to 2000.

Lionel Legros is a Haitian journalist and directed the radio show “L’Heure Haïtienne” for over 20 years. His work documenting the experience of refugees from all over the world stands as a contribution to the voice of the displaced.

Georges Vilson is an archivist & musician who has worked to document Haitian folk and traditional music. His experience singing with well-known artist Manno Charlemagne links him to the early stages of a prolific movement of artists working to acknowledge and fortify Haiti’s cultural link to activism.
COMMUNITY CURATED PROJECT: ISTWA DJAKOUT MWEN (THE HISTORY OF MY DJAKOUT)

Saturday, June 14 | 1–3:30PM | FREE
FiveMyles Gallery | 558 St. Johns Place Brooklyn, NY 11238
Workshop will accommodate 20 people, please RSVP to reserve at RSVP@haiticulturalx.org
Led by artist Gracie Xavier in honor of Haitian Heritage Month, Istwa Djakout Mwen and Collage Workshop will utilize found objects and collage to help participants share stories of their voyage to the United States. Gracie Xavier is a Haitian visual artist from New York. She is currently receiving her MFA in Community Arts from Maryland Institute College of Art.

EVOLUTION | REVOLUTION: A PANEL DISCUSSION ON CONTEMPORARY HAITIAN DANCE

Saturday, June 14 | 5–6:30PM | Free
CUMBE: Center for African & Diasporan Dance
558 Fulton Street | Brooklyn, NY 11217
Presented in collaboration with CUMBE: Center for African & Diasporan Dance, join HCX for a panel discussion on the evolution of traditional & contemporary dance in Haiti and the Diaspora with dancers Julio Jean & Goussy Célestin. Discussion will be followed by a participatory dance demonstration.

TASTE OF LACAYE

Tuesday, June 17 | 6–8PM
La Caye Restaurant | 35 Lafayette Street | Brooklyn, NY 11217
Enjoy a special tasting menu with La Caye Restaurant’s new Executive Chef Pierre Fervil.

MUTATION X062 | INSTALLATION & PERFORMANCE BY MAKSÆNS DENIS

Friday, June 20 | 7–9PM | Free. $10 suggested donation.
FiveMyles Gallery, 558 St. Johns Place Brooklyn, NY 11238
Experimental digital and performance artist, Maksaens Denis will perform Mutation X062 and discuss his career while sharing insights on his digital media technique.

Mutation X062 represents the evolution of Denis’ Mutation X0 series. Hinging on the exponential nature of mutations, the pieces respond to new environments, performers, social or political developments, and advancements in technology. Maksaens Denis was born in Port-au-Prince. He studied at l’École Supérieure d’Audiovisuel in Paris and graduated in 1992. He creates installations that juxtapose video montage and sculpture and has collaborated with choreographers and dancers to bring audiences a different perspective on video. In 2004 & 2011, Denis participated in the Biennale de Cuba and Venice with the exhibit “Haiti Royaume de ce Monde.”

KRÍK? KRAK! STORYTELLING & SONGS

Saturday, June 21 | 4–5PM | Free
Brooklyn Children’s Museum
145 Brooklyn Ave Brooklyn, NY 11213
This free family program is sure to entertain kids as well as their parents with classic Haitian tales. These dramatic retellings will incite a love of Haitian myth and color children’s dreams with wonder.
SALON D’HAÏTI
June 22 | 5–8PM | FREE
Queens Museum | New York City Building
Flushing Meadows | Corona Park | Queens, NY 11368
Presented in collaboration with PEN Haiti, PEN American Center & Akashic Books, authors from the U.S. and Haiti will share select readings and discuss their work. Featuring authors Katia D. Ulysse and Jean-Euphèle Milcé.

Katia D. Ulysse
is a native of Haiti and writes in English and Haitian Creole. Her work appears in The Caribbean Writer, Meridians, Peregrine, and Smartish Pace. Her stories are anthologized in Macomère, Brassage, Butterfly’s Way, Haiti Noir, and Mozayik, among others. Drifting is her first book of fiction.

Jean-Euphèle Milcé
is a Haitian author and director of the PEN Haiti House of Literature. His novel, Alphabet Nights, published in 2004, won the Prix Georges Nicole in Switzerland and was a finalist for the Prix Prince Pierre de Monaco among others. His works revolve around the drama of exile and uncertainty of the crossing.

NO PASSPORT PARTY
Saturday, June 28 | Doors open at 9PM | $15 in advance.
DCTV | 87 Lafayette Street | New York, NY 10013

No Passport
Join HCX for the blowout finale of Selebrasyon! Afrobeat & world fusion DJs Sabine Blaizin and Gardy Girault will spin for an exclusive No Passport Party! In 2013, Gardy introduced No Passport Parties, an eclectic movement drawing from the magical melodies and beautiful rhythmic roots of Haiti, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, combined with modern and retro electronic music.

DJ Sabine Blaizin’s sound focuses on the exposure and pleasures of African Diasporic music. Brooklyn Mecca and Oyasound are a few of her creative projects. Over the years, DJ Sabine’s mainstay and cultivation has been the monthly event Brooklyn Mecca which has been coined the home of “Grassroots Dance Culture.” Her O-ysound EP is currently in the works. Most recently, Sabine has joined the Ocha Records label as their Brand Marketing Director/Producer and Bembe NYC Party resident DJ.

DJ Gardy Girault is rapidly becoming one of the best house music DJs in Haiti. Influenced by the sounds of his beloved country, Gardy started his music career in 2008 – playing in clubs alongside artists like Yves Larock and Jephte Guillaume and at international events such as WMC in Miami, France, and New York Fashion Week.
Haiti Cultural Exchange wishes to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to all of the individuals, sponsors and partners who made Selebrasyon! possible. Mèsi Anpil!

A special note of thanks to the Selebrasyon! Committee and HCX staff, HCX staff members Kassandra Khalil & Jessica Tong. Additional thanks goes out to Darnelle Champagne, Lashawn Garnes, Sherley César, and all of our volunteers. This festival is possible thanks to your dedication, passion and hard work.

To all of the participating artists—you are the cornerstone of Selebrasyon!