

Sybil Marjory Atteck BFA CMG

Pioneering Artist, Art Teacher, and Leader
Born at Perry Trace, Tableland, Trinidad and Tobago
Citizenship: Trinidad and Tobago

Founding and Lifetime Member of the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago

PROFILE

Sybil Atteck was born in 1911 and died in 1975. She is a national and historic figure of significance in Trinidad and Tobago and was the first locally born artist to be formally educated in Fine Arts. She started her education in 1935 at the London Polytechnic Institute and later received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri U.S.A. She continued with further art studies in Lima Peru, England, Italy, and the U.S.A. She was the inspiration for, and a founding member of, the Trinidad Art Society (now the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago). In 1943, she served as its first Secretary, then later as Vice-president, and then as President for three terms. She led and guided the Art Society through her nation's independence and later became member emeritus. Sybil was a member of the committee for the development of the coat of arms and national flag of Trinidad and Tobago. She is recognized both nationally and internationally as Trinidad's leading artist of her time, leading female artist, and National Grand Master of art during the 1960's and early 1970's. She was the first highly qualified national art teacher, teaching hundreds of the nation's youth and emerging artists, and even formed the first 'recognizable school of art' in Trinidad and Tobago. She firmly established, secured, and influenced the nation's fine arts capabilities and capacity pre-, during, and post-independence. In 1973, Sybil Atteck was the recipient of the nation's second highest award, the Chaconia Medal (Gold), for her eminent contribution to the development of art in Trinidad and Tobago. In the years after her death in 1975, Sybil's legacy and her art have endured. Her art works have been featured in major national art collections, on the Nation's postage stamps, at national events (such as the 200th anniversary of Chinese Arrival in Trinidad and Tobago in 2006), and at numerous local and international art exhibitions.

Artistic Media and Experience

- Oil Painting
- Watercolours
- Ceramics
- Acrylic
- Oil Crayon
- Wood Sculpture
- Drawing & Composition
- Murals
- Terra Cotta
- Mixed-Media
- Ink & Wash
- Copper Relief
- Clay Sculpture
- Applied Arts

EDUCATION

Provincetown, Maine, United States of America

1967

Summer of Self-study

- General Art Courses

The University for Foreigners in Perugia, Italy

1958

6-week course

- Etruscology, Italic Antiquities and Preparation of Italian Language.

British Council Fellowship, London, England

1950

6-week course

- Methods for teaching art.

Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America

1945-1948

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree

- Subjects; drawing, composition, painting, sculpture, anatomy, watercolour, art & archaeology, Spanish, English, French, public school art, psychology, English literature, English history, and Botany.

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- Instructors; Kenneth Eugene Hudson, BFA, Fred Green Carpenter, Gustav Friederich Goetsch, Gaetano Cecere, N.A., Fredrick E. Conway, Philip Guston, and Max Beckmann

Escuela de Belle Arts, Lima Peru

1941-1942

12-months art course

- Subjects; Oil painting, and sculpture.
- Instructors; Julia Manuela Codesido Estenós (1883-1979) and Professor Raúl Pro

Botanical Drawing, Kew Gardens, London, England

1935

6-month course

- Subjects; botanical drawing and botanical water colours
- Instructor; Stella Ross-Craig (1906-2006)

London Polytechnic Institute, England, United Kingdom

1935

1-year general art programme

- Subjects; life classes, design, illustration and composition, landscape and still life painting, antique, general drawing.
- Instructors are not identified individually; a list of instructors has been included in this biography.

Natural History, St. Mary's College, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

1931-1932

6-months duration for each subject

- Subjects; Zoology, Botany, and General Biology.
- Instructor; Father Leonard Joseph Graf, Holy Ghost Father of St. Mary's College

Bishop Anstey Girls College in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

1923-1928

High School

- Took art classes with two English expatriate teachers.

St. Rose's Girls R. C. School in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

1921-1923

High School

- First formal schooling after home schooling

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

St Francois Girls College, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

1965-1974

Art Mistress, Art Teacher

- Responsible for the delivery of art courses to the students.

Extra Mural Department, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

1961-1973

Part-time Art Lecturer

- Responsible for the delivery of art courses to the students.

Holy Name Convent, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

1961-1962

Art Mistress, Art Teacher

- Responsible for the delivery of art courses to the students.

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St. Joseph's Convent, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	1952-1960
Art Mistress, Art Teacher	
▪ Responsible for the delivery of art courses to the students.	
Bishop Anstey, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	1948-1951
Art Mistress, Art Teacher	
▪ Responsible for the delivery of art courses to the students.	
St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago	1 Term - 1948
Art Mistress, Art Teacher	
▪ Responsible for the delivery of art courses to the students.	
Malaria Control Unit, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	1942-1944
Field Data Collection, Cartographer, Scientific Illustrator,	
▪ Responsible for cartographic maps, scientific/entomological illustrator, botanical drawings, and watercolours	
Botanical Department, Ministry of Agriculture Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	1931-1941
Clerk and Draftsman	
▪ Responsible for cartographic maps, scientific/entomological illustrator, botanical drawings, and watercolours	
Millers Department Store, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	1929-1930
Clerk	
▪ Customer Service	

COMMUNITY ART TEACHING

Trinidad Art Society, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

- Oil Painting; 1956, 1950, 1949
- Contour Drawing; 1956
- Lectures (10) on Art History; 1952
- Painting; 1951
- Lecture on Peruvian Art; Adult Art Lectures at QRC; 1944

University of the West Indies – Extra Mural Department

- Art Lectures from 1962 – 1972
- Modern Painting Techniques, Nassau Campus, 1965
- St. Lucia and Barbados Art Seminars, 1963

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LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Trinidad Art Society, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

- 1966 – November Exhibition Selection Committee
- 1964 – President, November Exhibition Selection Committee
- 1963 – President, November Exhibition Selection Committee
- 1962 – President, November Exhibition Selection Committee
- 1961 – Vice-President, November Exhibition Selection Committee
- 1960 – Vice-President, November Exhibition Selection Committee
- 1959 – Assistant Honorary Secretary
- 1951 – Vice-President, Annual November Exhibition Committee, Judge
- 1950 – Vice-President, Rebel Artists Group
- 1944 – Hon. Secretary, Annual November Exhibition Committee
- 1943 – Hon. Secretary, Founding Member

AWARDS

Trinidad and Tobago National Awards - Chaconia Medal (Gold); 1973

Pegasus Trophy; 1964

Puerto Rico, International Exhibition - Merit Certificate Award; 1954

Trinidad Art Society, Studio Prize for *Reclining Figure*; 1953

Puerto Rico, Amateur Painters Competition – Certificate of Honour; 1952

PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETIES, COMMITTEES, AND CLUBS

Trinidad Art Society (1943 – 1975)

Member of the Committee for the Coat of Arms and Flag (1962)

Trinidad Field Naturalist Club (1931 – 1934)

Girl Guides Troup at Bishop Anstey (1923 – 1927)

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)

Soroptimist

Zonta

Business & Professional Women's Club

MAJOR WORKS AND MURALS

- 1962 – St. Theresa R. C. Church in Malik, Barataria – 14 Stations of the Cross
- 1961 – Hilton Hotel Mural – *City Life*
- 1961 – Hilton Hotel Mural – *Country Life*
- 1960's – St. Stevens Church Mural, Princes Town – Mentioned in Catalogues
- 1960's – Kim Ling Restaurant Mural, Port of Spain – Helen Atteck remembers this
- 1957 – Bel Air Hotel Mural - *Folk Dances of the West Indies*
- 1956 – Port of Spain General Hospital, Children's Ward Mural – *Water Babies*
- 1951 – Fernandes Administration Complex Offices Mural - *Story of Rum*

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POSTHUMUS RECOGNITION

2022 – Phaidon Press

- **Great Women Painters** - Sybil Atteck was included in a book celebrating the contribution to art of 300+ painters from 60+ countries, spanning 5 centuries.

2006 – Trinidad and Tobago Postage Stamp

- **200th anniversary of the Chinese Arrival in Trinidad** - Sybil Atteck's painting entitled "Still Life with Fruit" is depicted on the \$5.25 stamp and was issued by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

1995 – Trinidad and Tobago Postage Stamp

- **50 years of Art** - Commemoration of 50th Anniversary of the Trinidad and Tobago Art Society. Sybil Atteck's painting entitled "Fishermen" is depicted on the 50c stamp and was issued by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

1985 – Trinidad and Tobago Postage Stamp

- **Decade of Women** - Sybil Atteck is celebrated on a stamp as part of a series celebrating six women who contributed to the nation and was issued by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

ALL EXHIBITIONS

The following is a full listing of exhibitions, both Group and Solo Exhibitions, where Sybil Atteck's artworks have been exhibited during her lifetime.

#	Year	Solo or Group	Name
1	1930	Group Show	Society of Independents Exhibition
2	1939	Group Show	Trinidad Guardian Exhibition
3	1944	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society Inaugural Exhibition
4	1944	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society First Annual November Exhibition
5	1945	Group Show	Institute of Jamaica, Kingston
6	1945	Group Show	Willistead Art Gallery, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
7	1946	Group Show	Public Library and Art Museum of London, Ontario, Canada
8	1946	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition of Orchid Paintings at Public Library
9	1948	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Port of Spain Public Library Exhibition
10	1948	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Town Hall San Fernando Exhibition
11	1948	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Normandy Hotel Exhibition
12	1949	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society Annual November Exhibition
13	1950	Group Show	Royal Institute of Painters in Oils, Piccadilly
14	1950	Group Show	Rebel Artists (RA) Exhibition by members of Trinidad Art Society
15	1951	Group Show	Trinidad Artists Exhibit at Barbados Museum and Historical Society
16	1951	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Barbados Museum and Historical Society Exhibition
17	1952	Group Show	Royal Institute of Oil Painters (R.O.I.) Exhibition
18	1953	Group Show	Royal Society of British Artists - Winter Exhibition
19	1954	Group Show	International Exhibition in Puerto Rico
20	1955	Group Show	The 187th Exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts Exhibition
21	1955	Group Show	Alcoa Caribbean Art Contest

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#	Year	Solo or Group	Name
22	1956	Group Show	Houston International Gulf Artists Exhibition
23	1956	Group Show	Dallas Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
24	1956	Group Show	Boston Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
25	1956	Group Show	Utica Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
26	1956	Group Show	Pittsburgh Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
27	1956	Group Show	Colorado Springs Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
28	1956	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck exhibition at the Trinidad Art Society
29	1956	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society Annual November Exhibition
30	1957	Group Show	The Art of America and Spain Exhibition
31	1957	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society Annual November Exhibition
32	1958	Group Show	West Indies Festival of Arts
33	1959	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute
34	1959	Group Show	Society of Women Artists Annual Exhibition
35	1959	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at The Art Gallery - Institute of Jamaica
36	1959	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society Annual November Exhibition
37	1959	Group Show	Art Mart Gallery Exhibition
38	1960	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Shell Club
39	1960	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck and Henri Salvatori - Two-man Show at Art Centre
40	1960	Group Show	Art Society Exhibition at Texaco Art Market --
41	1960	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society Annual November Exhibition
42	1961	Group Show	Fantasy in May at Holy Name Convent, Port of Spain
43	1961	Group Show	Trinidad and Tobago Artists - Commonwealth Institute Exhibition
44	1961	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society Annual November Exhibition
45	1962	Group Show	Art Society Exhibition – French Street Art Centre – Last Exhibition
46	1962	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society Independence Exhibition
47	1962	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society November and Independence Exhibition
48	1963	Group Show	1963 - Strandmarks Memorial Benefit Exhibition
49	1963	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Art Exhibition, St. Lucia
50	1963	Group Show	7th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo
51	1963	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Naparima Bowl Exhibition
52	1963	Group Show	Chase Manhattan Bank Exhibition - Port of Spain
53	1963	Group Show	Chase Manhattan Bank, 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York
54	1964	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck at Integral Gallery, ACA Gallery, New York
55	1965	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition Sponsored by Esso in Nassau, Bahamas
56	1965	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at the Art Gallery Hilton Hotel
57	1965	Group Show	Commonwealth Arts Festival Exhibition
58	1965	Group Show	8th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo
59	1965	Group Show	Trinidad and Tobago Art Society Annual November Exhibition
60	1966	Group Show	Tobago Art Group (TAG) Exhibition
61	1966	Group Show	Trinidad and Tobago Art Society Annual November Exhibition
62	1967	Group Show	Canada Expo 67 - Trinidad and Tobago Contribution
63	1967	Group Show	9th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo
64	1969	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Royal Bank of Canada
65	1969	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck at Hans Stern's Salon Sociale gallery, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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#	Year	Solo or Group	Name
66	1969	Group Show	10th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo, Brazil
67	1970	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Salvatori Building Art Gallery
68	1970	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
69	1970	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Niagara-on-the-lake, Ontario, Canada
70	1973	Group Show	Ministry of Education and Culture - Open Air - 11th Independence Anniversary
71	1972	Group Show	Organization of American States (OAS) - Contemporary Art of the Caribbean --
72	1972	Group Show	Carifesta International Art Exhibition
73	1973	Group Show	12th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo, Brazil
74	1973	Group Show	Trinidad and Tobago 30th Annual November Exhibition
75	1974	Group Show	Ceramics, a group exhibition
76	1974	Group Show	Trinidad and Tobago Paintings, Prints, Sculpture at Commonwealth Institute - Part 1
77	1974	Group Show	Trinidad and Tobago Paintings, Prints, Sculpture at Commonwealth Institute - Part 2

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

The following is a full listing of Sybil Atteck's Solo Exhibitions.

#	Year	Solo or Group	Name
1	1946	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition of Orchid Paintings at Public Library
2	1948	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Port of Spain Public Library Exhibition
3	1948	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Town Hall San Fernando Exhibition
4	1948	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Normandy Hotel Exhibition
5	1951	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Barbados Museum and Historical Society Exhibition
6	1956	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck exhibition at the TAS
7	1957	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck at Integral Gallery Exhibition
8	1959	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute
9	1959	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition of Paintings at The Art Gallery - Institute of Jamaica
10	1960	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Shell Club
11	1960	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck and Henri Salvatori - Two-man Show at Art Centre
12	1963	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Naparima Bowl Exhibition
13	1964	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck ACA Gallery Exhibition, New York
14	1965	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition Sponsored by Esso in Nassau, Bahamas
15	1965	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at the Art Gallery Hilton Hotel
16	1969	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Royal Bank of Canada
17	1969	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck at Hans Stern's Salon Sociale gallery, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
18	1970	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Salvatori Building Art Gallery
19	1970	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
20	1970	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Niagara-on-the-lake, Ontario, Canada

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INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

The following is a full listing of Sybil Atteck's International Exhibitions.

#	Year	Solo or Group	Name
1	1945	Group Show	Institute of Jamaica, Kingston
2	1945	Group Show	Willistead Art Gallery, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
3	1946	Group Show	Public Library and Art Museum of London, Ontario, Canada
4	1946	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition of Orchid Paintings at Public Library
5	1951	Group Show	Trinidad Artists Exhibit at Barbados Museum and Historical Society Exhibition
6	1951	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Barbados Museum and Historical Society Exhibition
7	1952	Group Show	Royal Institute of Oil Painters (R.O.I.) Exhibition
8	1953	Group Show	Royal Society of British Artists - Winter Exhibition
9	1954	Group Show	International Exhibition in Puerto Rico
10	1955	Group Show	The 187th Exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts Exhibition
11	1956	Group Show	Houston International Gulf Artists Exhibition
12	1956	Group Show	Dallas Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
13	1956	Group Show	Boston Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
14	1956	Group Show	Utica Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
15	1956	Group Show	Pittsburgh Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
16	1956	Group Show	Colorado Springs Gulf Caribbean International Art Exhibition
17	1959	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute
18	1959	Group Show	Society of Women Artists Annual Exhibition
19	1959	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition of Paintings at The Art Gallery - Institute of Jamaica
20	1961	Group Show	Trinidad and Tobago Artists - Commonwealth Institute Exhibition
21	1961	Group Show	Trinidad Art Society Annual November Exhibition
22	1963	Group Show	7th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo
23	1963	Group Show	Chase Manhattan Bank, 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York
24	1964	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck at Integral Gallery, ACA Gallery, New York
25	1965	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition Sponsored by Esso in Nassau, Bahamas
26	1965	Group Show	Commonwealth Arts Festival Exhibition
27	1965	Group Show	8th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo
28	1967	Group Show	Canada Expo 67 - Trinidad and Tobago Contribution
29	1967	Group Show	9th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo
30	1969	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck at Hans Stern's Salon Sociale gallery, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
31	1969	Group Show	10th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo, Brazil
32	1970	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
33	1970	Solo Show	Sybil Atteck Exhibition at Niagara-on-the-lake, Ontario, Canada
34	1972	Group Show	Organization of American States (OAS) - Contemporary Art of the Caribbean --
35	1972	Group Show	Carifesta International Art Exhibition
36	1973	Group Show	12th Annual Biennale, Sao Paulo, Brazil
37	1974	Group Show	Trinidad and Tobago Paintings, Prints, Sculpture at Commonwealth Institute - Part 1

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#	Year	Solo or Group	Name
38	1974	Group Show	Trinidad and Tobago Paintings, Prints, Sculpture at Commonwealth Institute - Part 2