

Ras Mosera

Born in St. Lucia with time spent in Guadeloupe, Ras Mosera is one of the most celebrated artists on St. Maarten/St. Martin. The self-taught expressionist painter not only depicts the island the way he sees it in work. My wife was a law student from St. Martin and the reason I came here, he says. But honestly, St. Martin has been good to me as a gateway to multiple worlds.

About his artwork, Mosera says, My work is an interpretation of the Caribbean irony, which is in abundance. Because of our complex historical background, I believe in the search for our whimsical self, which is the right of a people. The artist should be regarded as a healer of a people's psyche. In a region that is in need of therapy, I am aware that the arts are one of the most powerful and important therapeutic activities and, all the more so if the artist is aware of this potential.

Working in oil, watercolor and acrylic, Mosera is the acme of the island's artists. I try to paint in a global way but with a Caribbean perspective. When he's not creating on canvas, Mosera easily recognized by his long salt-and-pepper dreadlocks hangs out in a Front Street café. I will not say I have a jazz background; maybe a jazzy mind. His musical influences range from reggae to jazz.

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