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Years of Belize's Independence

art in the public space

Art Inside the House

If we just keep reproducing objects or art for exhibition in a specific space then we continue a system of failure, exclusion, isolation, and disconnection. But if we re-imagine that art is vitamin and progressive in its energy for freedom, then another process is possible.

I started writing these words 48 hours after my beloved Belize finally acknowledged via a "national public and bank holiday" African Emancipation Day on 1st August 2021. And days before 13 August which in 3131B.C. the Maya date that represents the time of creation.

With approval from the appropriate Government of Belize institutions these two works have been installed inside the House of the Peoples' Representatives, a space on a hill in Belmopan, Belize.

This 2021 installation was done as two collaborations across generations, cultures, families and geographies in Belize.

The individuality of each artist gives way to the generality of a bigger form, a chance to do more things, to design, to fashion a complexity for art to become more available for public contemplation and further imagination.

Unlike other facets of our social system, art can also be concerned with a negotiation of - not what to think but to make you think.

People can come forward and enter this space and ask, what is this? Why is this? And that click, that spark is what ignites the spirit toward a sense of being, questioning and hopefully toward belonging.

These works are hand made with two essential materials - fabric and stone. Thousands of stitches, and knaps (shaping of stone). To take away means to make new, to piece together means to join.

Respect to the artists that despite a global pandemic, and the everyday survival struggles have offered themselves for us to consider art, in public.

Perhaps a new dawn could bring a consciousness that more art deserves to be considered for our public collective spaces.

This is perhaps what we are trying to doBAFFU!

yasser musa

Belize

17 August 2021



artists: Katie Numi Usher & Mercy Sabal
photo credit: diFACTRI archive

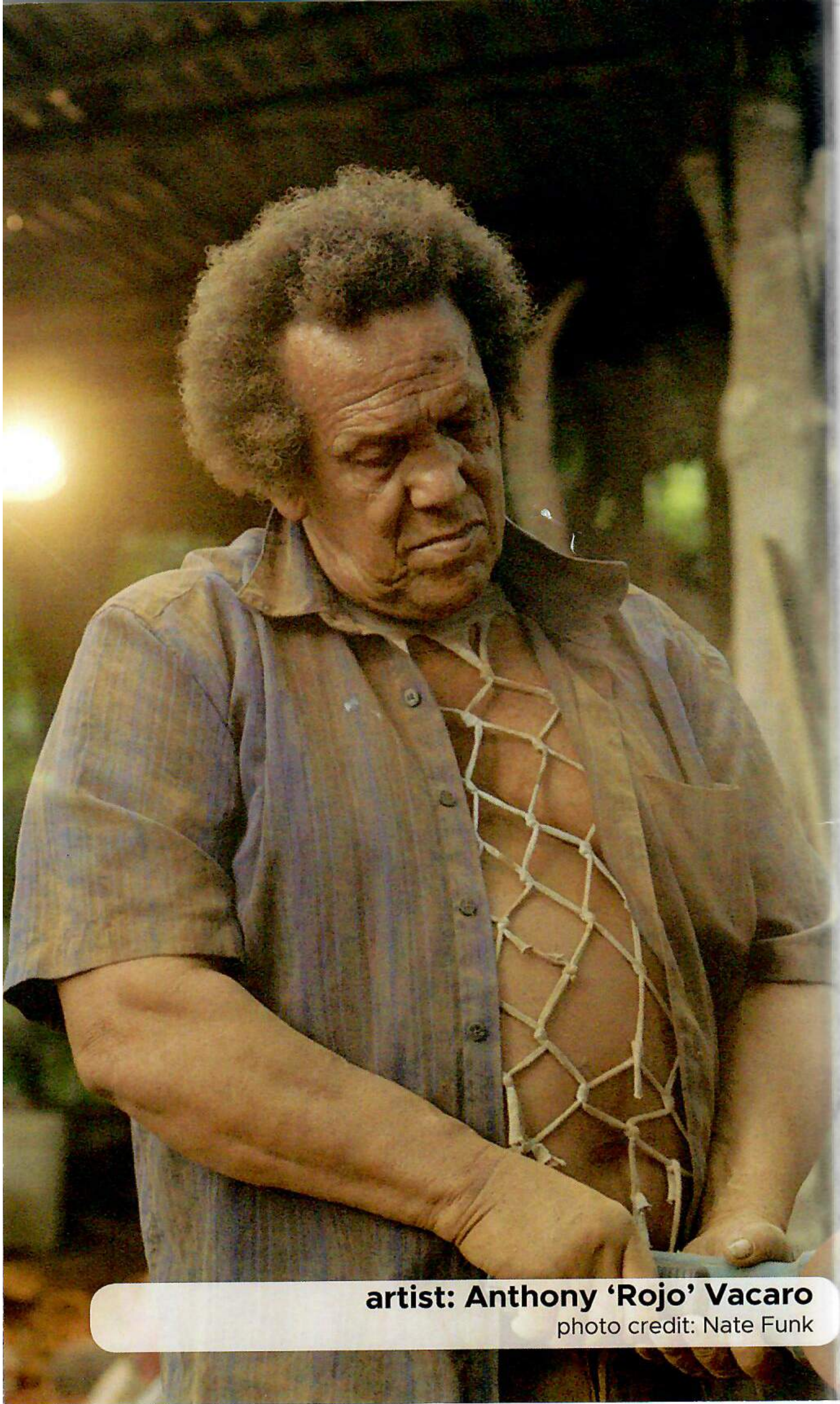


Mercy Sabal | Katie Numi Usher
Belizean, born 1955 Belizean, born 1986

Independence da EVERYDAY PEOPLE, 2021

Fabric and Mixed Media
8 feet x 4 feet

National Art Collection of Belize



artist: Anthony 'Rojo' Vacaro

photo credit: Nate Funk



Anthony 'Rojo' Vacaro
Belizean, born 1954

Flint Humans, 2021

Chert, Marble and Limestone
8 feet x 4 feet

National Art Collection of Belize