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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTS THE WORKS OF
ARTIST RANI CARSON FROM SEPTEMBER 8 - OCTOBER 6, 2011 ON THE
MICHAEL J. GRANT CAMPUS**

Brentwood, NY -- The Gallery West, located in the Captree Commons Building on the Michael J. Grant Campus of Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood, will present the works of artist Rani Carson from September 8 through October 6, 2011. A reception, open to the public, will be held on Thursday, September 8 at 3:30 p.m. with light refreshments served.

A painter of meticulous portraits of Victorian dolls, Rani Carson had been contemplating the contrast between Victorian values and the feminist ideals of the 20th century, when a radical shift took place in her life, changing the direction of her work.

In the late 1980's, she discovered a spiritual connection to the Rastafarian community, which brought her in touch with a way of life that embodied a conscious connection to spirit. In her own words, "When I paint the people who have embraced the Rastafarian way of life, I am painting men and women who have taken a serious stand for righteousness and truth, for peace and justice." The reverence for life, nature, and culture which characterize Rasta comes through in her work. One reviewer writes, "Ms. Carson's skillful depiction of Rastafarian people in everyday life goes beyond figurative representation. The images illuminate the human spirit in articulated situations." She lives and works in Riverhead, and also in her studio in Oracabessa, Jamaica, West Indies, where she paints and gathers photographic material and inspiration.

Ms. Carson is a Professor on the Michael J. Grant Campus of Suffolk County Community College, where she has taught for 35 years. She received her B.A. from Barnard College and her M.F.A. from Brooklyn College. Her work was included in exhibitions in the Brooklyn Museum and the Allan Stone Gallery in NYC, the Vorpall Gallery in San Francisco, the National Gallery of Jamaica, as well as in the Meguro Museum of Art in Tokyo. It has been reproduced and/or written about in *The New York Times*, the Winter/Watercolor edition of *American Artist*, and other publications in the United States and Jamaica.

Although the emphasis will be on recent work, both aspects of Rani Carson's work are represented in this exhibition.

About Suffolk County Community College

Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) is the largest community college in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, enrolling approximately 26,000 students at its three campuses in Selden, Brentwood and Riverhead. SCCC offers the Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), and Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees, as well as a variety of certificate programs. Offering affordable college tuition, a highly respected Honors program, extensive extracurricular activities, championship athletic teams, and numerous unified transfer programs, SCCC is a first-choice college for Long Island students. Visit us online at sunysuffolk.edu.

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