

Art and Crafts Galleries in Belize

By LAN SLUDER

BELIZE CITY

Image Factory

91 N. Front St.

www.imagefactorybelize.com

501-223-1149

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-5

Established in 1995, the Image Factory under Director Yasser Musa is at the center of Belize's art and cultural scene. The Image Factory has shows featuring Belize's top artists and writers and regularly exhibits around 15 artists.

Fine Arts Gallery

1 Fort St. in Tourism Village

www.fineartsgallerybelize.com

501-674-5868

Hours: When cruise ships are in port, or by appointment

Stocks original art and prints from a number of Belizean artists including Carolyn Carr and Walter Castillo. Sells primarily to cruise ship tourists.

Belizean Handicraft Market Place (formerly National Handicraft Center)

2 S. Park in Fort George area opposite Memorial Park

501-223-3627

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-4

Broad selection of 100% Belizean-made crafts.

BELMOPAN

Art Box

Mile 46, Western Hwy.

501-623-6129

www.artboxbz.com

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8-6

Large gift shop with wood carvings, jewelry and some paintings by Carolyn Carr, Manuel Gonzalez Daza and others.

CAYE CAULKER

Caribbean Colors Art Gallery

Front St.

501-206-0206 or 877-809-1659

www.caribbean-colors.com

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8-5

Detroit-born Lee Vanderwalker's gallery, café and gift shop has wearable art by Vanderwalker, along with Christmas ornaments, jewelry, jewelry boxes and tiles.

Cooper's Art Gallery

Front St.

501-226-0330

www.debbiecooperart.com

Hours: Mon. Noon-6, Tue.-Sat. 10-8

Co-owner Debbie Cooper, who spent years living in Hawaii, sells her own paintings and prints here, together with work by Walter Castillo, Nelson Young and other artists.

COROZAL

Corozal Art Gallery

Reyes Plaza, 4th Ave. and 3rd St. N.

501-633-8679

www.corozalartgallery.weebly.com

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 am “until” or by appointment

Newly opened in mid-2011, the Corozal Art Gallery offers the work of several Belizean artists including Donna Williams and David Terrelong of Corozal, along with art by owner Anne de Strijcker, who signs her paintings “Iver.”

DANGRIGA

Garinagu Crafts and Art Gallery

46 Oak St. at Tubroose St.

501-522-2596

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-6

Owner Francis Swaso, a Garifuna art and culture expert, offers handmade Garifuna drums, dolls, wood carvings and masks.

Pen Cayetano Studio Gallery

3 Aranda Crescent at Gallery St.

501-501-3156

Hours: 9-5 Tue.-Sat. (usually closing at Noon-2 for lunch); Sun. 9-Noon

Admission BZ\$5

Dangriga native Cayetano’s well-known impressionist paintings depict Garifuna culture. Also sold here are CDs from Cayetano’s band and needlework and other art by other members of the Cayetano family.

GALES POINT

Sugar Shack

Gales Point village next to Maroon Creole Drum School

501-603-6051

American Jill Burgess sells art made from driftwood and bamboo.

MAYA CENTER

Maya Center Women’s Cooperative Crafts Store

Hours: Daily 7:30-4:30

Baskets, slate carvings, masks, bowls, wood carvings and knick-knacks made by local Mopan women are sold at fair prices in this co-op.

PLACENCIA

Lola's Art

Seine Bight

501-601-1913

www.jcasadart.com

Hours: Daily 7-6

Belize City native Lola Delgado displays and sells her own bold, strongly colored paintings of Garifuna women and Belizean seascapes, primitive in some ways but strangely appealing.

Art 'n Soul

South end of the Sidewalk, Placencia village

501-503-3088

Hours: Daily 9-6

Greta Leslie displays and sells her own work, together with that of Nelson Young, Lola Delgado, Omar Sierra and others.

Spectarte

Maya Beach, opposite Green Parrot

501-523-8019

Hours: Thu.-Tue. 10-6

No junk here. Long-time Belize resident Jenny Wildman's gallery cum café displays the top end of Belizean furniture, crafts, sculpture, textiles and art. Among artists displayed here are Pen Cayetano and Isiah Nicholas.

PUNTA GORDA

Fajina Craft Center

Front St.

Hours: Usually open mornings of market days (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday)

This co-op run by the Ketchi and Mopan women sells baskets, slate carvings, textiles and embroidered items.

Maya Bags

Workshop on Airport Rd. near Tropic Air office at PG airstrip

www.mayabags.com

More than 90 Maya women in eight Toledo villages create hangbags, purses and other items that are sold in local shops and internationally.

SAN IGNACIO

Orange Gifts (formerly Caesar's Place)

Mile 60, Western Hwy.

501-824-2341

www.orangegifts.com

This roadside gift shop near San Ignacio has a large selection of Belizean and Guatemalan crafts, including wood bowls, wood carvings, masks, and others. There also are Orange Gifts locations in San Pedro and at the Ka'ana Resort in San Ignacio.

Garcia Sisters Tanah Mayan Art Museum

Cristo Rey Rd., San Antonio, Cayo

501-669-4023

Hours: Daily 7-7

The Garcia sisters brought back the Maya art of slate carvings, and many beautiful examples are on display and for sale here (most of the slate comes from the Mountain Pine Ridge) along with limestone statues.

Sak Tunich

Cristo Rey Rd., San Antonio, Cayo

501-606-7806

Hours: Daily 6-6

Brothers Jose and Javier Magaña offer their slate carvings, limestone statues, wood carvings and ceramics.

SAN PEDRO

Belizean Arts

Barrier Reef Dr. at Fido's

501-226-3019

www.belizeanarts.com

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-6

The first art gallery in Belize, established more than 20 years ago by Londoner Lyndsey Hackston, Belizean Arts today has the largest selection of art by Belizeans and Belize residents of any gallery in the country, with paintings by Walter Castillo, Pen Cayetano, Nelson Young, Leo Vasquez, Piva, Eduardo García, Curvin Mitchell, Jorge Landero and others. The gallery also carries art by Cuban and other Caribbean artists, along with ceramics, jewelry and other crafts.

Artesano

Buccaneer St.

501-226-2370

www.artesanobelize.com

Work by Belizean artists reproduced on ceramic tiles.

C. Emmanuel Gallery

Coconut Dr., inside SunBreeze Hotel

501-226-2262

www.cemmanuel.com

Hours: By appointment

Christopher Emmanuel, author of *Secrets to Life* and other self-help books, operates a small gallery selling his paintings of Maya and Garifuna life.

In addition to these galleries, gift shops at some Belize hotels and lodges sell Belize crafts and a limited amount of art. Among notable hotel gift shops with art and crafts are these:

Blancaneaux Lodge, Mountain Pine Ridge

Hamanasi, Hopkins

Jaguar Reef, Hopkins

Ka'ana Resort, Western Hwy., San Ignacio

The Lodge at Chaa Creek, Chial Rd. near San Ignacio

Turtle Inn, Placencia

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