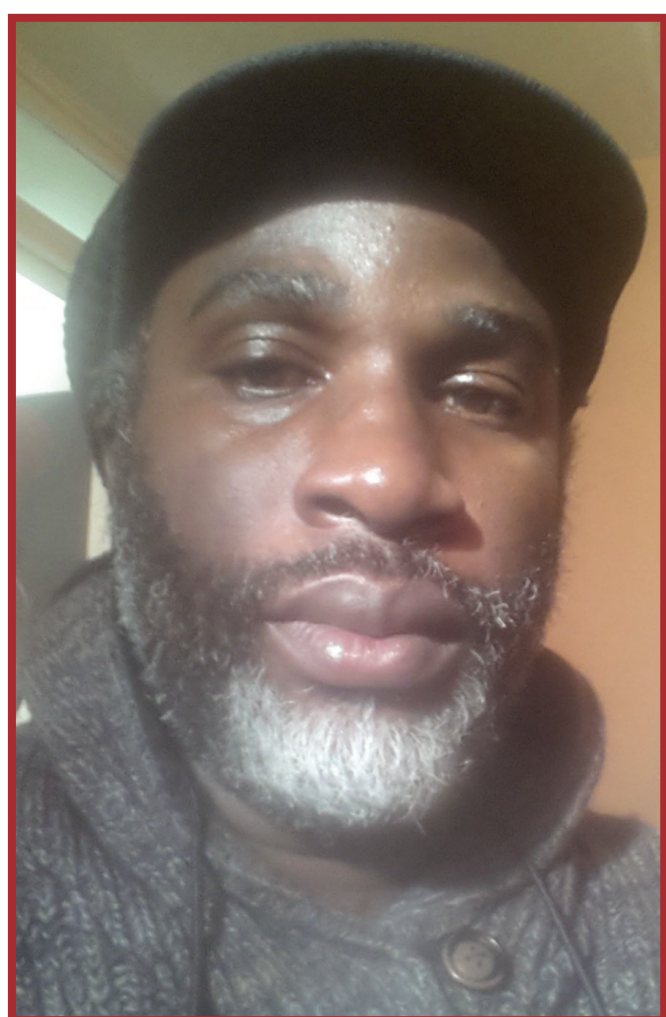


Tribute to Dem from Kevin West



Kevin’s first encounter with Dem Pollock was at the Junior Secondary School which was then housed in what used to be the Maple Leaf School, and later became Plymouth Primary School. He would have been 12 or 13 years old at the time. She volunteered to cover Art Classes at the school.

Before the age of 15, Kevin was asked to leave school and, having a strong interest in Art, he asked Dem to help him. According to Kevin, “I was hell bent on learning as much as I could about Art!” She had seen his interest and struck a deal with Kevin. She would teach him all she knew about Art and in exchange, he would spend time at her house doing Mathematics and English.

While Dem went off to Foxes Bay for her daily swim accompanied by her friend Maggie Peters, Kevin would be at Dem’s house reading. On Dem’s return, Kevin was expected to explain what he had read and understood.

Other youngsters interested in Art joined group sessions with Dem on Saturdays but Kevin thinks he may have been the only one who was able to grasp Dem’s technique with water colours, to which he added his own style. Kevin was pleased that Dem found his handling of different shades

of green “remarkable”. When Kevin began to sell his work, they joked over the fact that Kevin was being paid more than Dem ever received. Kevin feels that the experience demonstrated that there is little truth in the saying “Art doesn’t pay!”

Kevin’s first exhibition took place on June 25, 1986 and was considered a success with 90% of the exhibits sold. He later went on to win a photography competition mounted by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank in 2006, placing first in the seven island currency area and also taking the prize for the Best in Country Photograph. The photograph he submitted was entitled “Kelly and Labodie”.

Kevin explained that Dem subscribed to *National Geographic* and allowed him to read the periodical which stimulated his interest in photography. Kevin came into his own with the volcanic crisis, capturing the monumental changes wrought by pyroclastic flows.

As Kevin reported quite candidly, “I’ve learned so much from that woman that I didn’t mind that I was unable to finish school. I continued learning!” Thanks to Dem, Kevin was provided with an alternate path to success.

Kevin’s water colours of historic Montserrat scenes can be found in various offices including the Office of the Premier and at the Bank of Montserrat.



Rose by Kevin West



Women Sorting Limes at Elberton Estate



Farrell’s Estate



Parliament Street in Plymouth