



# T&T academic moves up in arts education



Daniela Fifi.  
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**T**wo new board appointments are set to position Trinidadian Dr Daniela Fifi as an important and influential Caribbean professional in the international arts in education community.

This month, Dr Fifi was appointed as reviewer and editorial board member of *Viewfinder* and *The Art Education Journal*; two main publications of the National Art Education Association (NAEA) based in the United States of America. She has also been invited to address students at MIT as a guest speaker to present lectures on the interdisciplinary nature of Caribbean arts. Her presentation will be one in a series of talks at the school about the importance of creativity in science and innovation.

*Viewfinder* is an experimental digital journal hosted by the NAEA, focused on the intersection of social justice and museum education. *Viewfinder* features experiments, invites critiques, and encourages cross-generational dialogues. The journal is a resource that values rigorous reflection on museum education and arts education. So far, Dr Fifi has overseen two peer-reviewed publications including a publication centred on the discourse

of change within the museum education community.

For this publication, Dr Fifi reviewed several submissions that highlighted how the international arts community has been impacted by COVID-19 and the subsequent implications that the pandemic has forced creative communities to confront. The publication advocates for change within arts and cultural institutions.

*Art Education Journal* is a bi-monthly publication covering a diverse range of topics of professional interest to art educators and visual arts education. The NAEA was founded in 1947 and is the leading professional membership organisation exclusively for visual arts and design education professionals in the United States. The mission of the organisation is to champion creative growth and innovation by equitably advancing the tools and resources for a high-quality visual arts, design, and media arts education throughout diverse populations and communities of practice.

Her nomination as an editorial board member for the *Art Education Journal* positions her on one of the most accredited editorial boards in the field of art education. Dr Fifi will be one of the few female Caribbean

editorial board members to have ever held this position. These appointments create an opportunity for essential Caribbean representation at this level, and at the intersection of Caribbean culture and global arts in education.

She is a graduate from Teachers College, Columbia University where she attained her Doctorate in Art and Art Education, a graduate from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom where she received her Masters degree in Art Gallery & Museum Studies and is a graduate of the Pratt Institute, New York where she received a Bachelor of Fine Art in Communication Design.

Her most recent work is the 2021 publication of "Art Collecting in the English-Speaking Caribbean", co-written with Nimah Zakari for In Haltham Eld and Robert James (Eds.) in *Museum Innovation* published by Routledge Press. Her next upcoming research and publication includes a book on "The Art and Life of Geoffrey Holder" which has been fully funded by The Andrew Mellon Foundation.

The importance of Caribbean art having representation in the international creative community cannot be understated. Dr Fifi's most recent

appointment continues to ensure that the Caribbean region's impact on international culture will remain included in the narrative for future generations through the medium of education.

Founded in 1947, the NAEA is considered the leading professional membership organisation exclusively for visual arts and design education professionals in the United States.

From its official website, the Association serves a membership across all 50 states of the US plus the District of Columbia, US Possessions, most Canadian Provinces, US military bases around the world, and 25+ foreign countries.

Readers of these journals include preK, elementary, middle, and high school visual arts educators; college and university professors; university students preparing to become educators; researchers and scholars; teaching artists; administrators and supervisors; and art museum educators—as well as more than 54,000 students who are members of the National Art Honor Society.

For more information on Dr. Fifi please contact: [daniela.fifi@gmail.com](mailto:daniela.fifi@gmail.com).