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Tanglewood Collection by

CARL GORDON

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LEGEND OF LORD SMOKING SHELL

Type of Wood: Mahogany

Source: Lemonal Wetlands in the Belize River Valley

Dimension: 7ft 9in high x 2ft 10in wide

Year: 2015

"Legend of Lord Smoking Shell" is a monumental sculpture that pays homage to the esteemed Maya chief, K'inich Kan Bahlam II, also known as Lord Smoking Shell. Renowned for his rule over the city of Palenque during the Late Classic period, his legacy is deeply intertwined with the rich symbolism and reverence for the crocodile, a creature he held in high regard.

Carved from the noble mahogany wood, the National wood of Belize, this sculpture stands at an impressive 7 feet 9 inches high and 2 feet 10 inches wide. The mahogany used was found embedded in the wetlands of Lemonal in the Belize River Valley, further connecting the piece to the lush, watery environments that were significant in Maya culture and mythology.

The sculpture features Lord Smoking Shell in a majestic pose, adorned with a headdress and regalia intricately detailed with crocodile motifs. These elements reflect his association with the crocodile, an animal symbolizing strength, protection, and the underworld in Maya cosmology.

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The craftsmanship captures the regal and spiritual essence of Lord Smoking Shell, with his features carved to convey both wisdom and authority.

Every aspect of the sculpture is meticulously rendered, from the scales and textures of the crocodile that merge seamlessly with his attire, to the expression of serene power on his face. The rich, warm hues of the mahogany add depth and life to the sculpture, inviting viewers to appreciate the artistry and cultural significance embodied in the piece.

"Legend of Lord Smoking Shell" is not merely a depiction of a historical figure; it is a celebration of the profound connection between the Maya people and the natural world. This sculpture serves as a reminder of the enduring legacy of Lord Smoking Shell and the sophisticated civilization he led.

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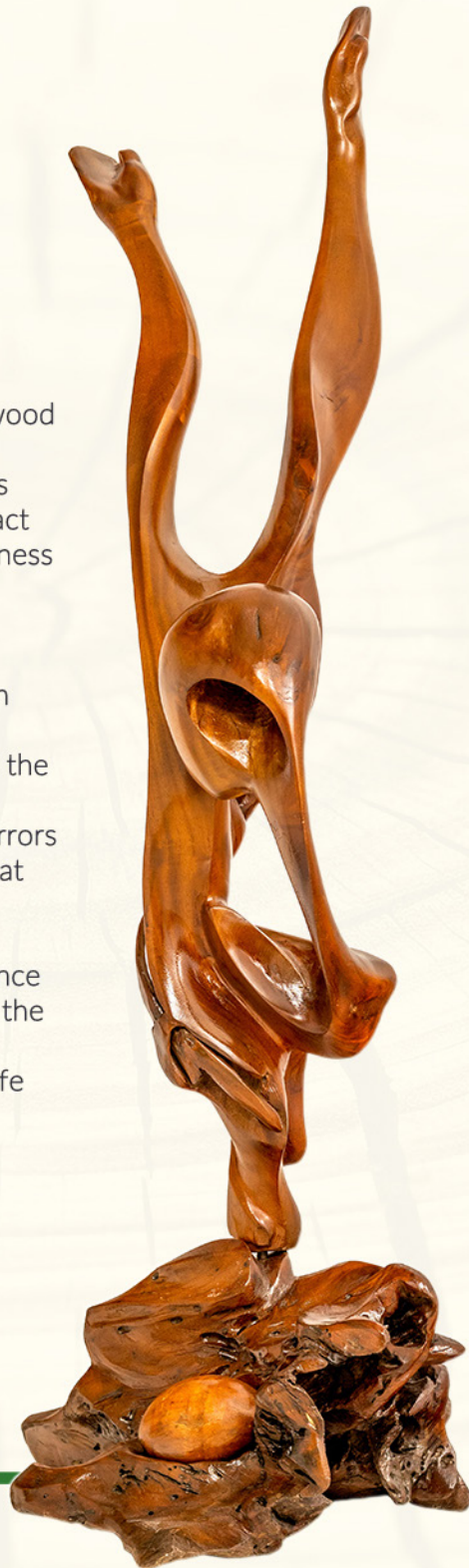
UPRISING

Type of Wood: Cedar
Source: Sibun Bar Mouth
Dimension: 5ft 3in high x 2ft 8in wide
Year: 2009

"Uprising" is a poignant and deeply evocative cedar wood sculpture that draws its inspiration from a heart-wrenching incident in Belize City, where a fetus was discovered in one of the city's canals. This abstract piece serves as a tribute to the sanctity and preciousness of life, emphasizing the inherent value and potential within every creation.

Crafted from a cherished piece of driftwood found on the northern beaches of the Sibun Bar Mouth, this sculpture holds a profound connection to nature and the cycle of life. The artist's emotional bond with the driftwood, felt from the moment it was picked up, mirrors the preciousness of a fetus—a nascent form of life that deserves nurturing and protection.

The abstract form of the sculpture captures the essence and hope for humanity, inviting viewers to reflect on the miracle of creation. The smooth, organic lines of the cedar wood symbolize growth and the potential for life to flourish, while the raw, natural texture of the driftwood speaks to the authenticity and unfiltered beauty of nature.



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NATURE BOY

Type of Wood: Pine and Mahogany
Source: Sibun Bar Mouth
Dimension: 2ft 4 1/2in high x 8 1/2in wide
Year: 2024

"Nature Boy" by Carl Gordon captures the essence of the natural world intertwined with human identity, a recurring theme in Gordon's evocative body of work.

The sculpture features an elegantly elongated figure with a serene, introspective face, eyes closed as if in communion with nature. The title "Nature Boy" evokes a sense of innate connection to the environment, suggesting a harmonious relationship between human life and the earth. Gordon's execution of this theme is both intricate and evocative, creating a piece that invites contemplation and connection. The fluid lines and organic shapes of the sculpture reflect the artist's ability to meld human form with natural elements seamlessly.

The upper portion of the sculpture, particularly the hair, transitions into abstract, flowing forms that resemble roots or branches, symbolizing growth, connection, and the cycle of life. This blend of human and natural forms evokes a sense of unity and harmony, underscoring the idea that humanity and nature are deeply intertwined.

The use of pine and mahogany, with its rich, warm tones and natural grain, enhances the sculpture's organic feel. Gordon's skillful carving techniques bring out the wood's inherent beauty, allowing the material's texture and color to complement the sculpture's thematic elements.

The lower part of the piece features open spaces and smooth, polished surfaces, inviting viewers to explore the interplay of light and shadow. This aspect of the sculpture adds a dynamic visual element, encouraging contemplation of the interconnectedness of all life.



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PACAL VOTAN

Type of Wood: Mahogany
Dimension: 4ft 9in high X 2ft 3in wide
Year: 2016

Pacal Votan is a masterful wooden sculpture that pays homage to the revered Maya ruler, Pacal the Great, whose wisdom and reverence for natural cycles continue to inspire. This intricately carved bust captures Pacal Votan's dignified visage, perched atop a triple-leg base richly engraved with authentic Maya art and glyphs.

The sculpture, hewn from wood, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the Maya civilization and its sophisticated understanding of time and nature. The bust of Pacal Votan exudes a serene yet commanding presence, reflecting his role as a custodian of cosmic knowledge. His features, meticulously carved, convey both the strength and introspective wisdom characteristic of his reign.

The base of the sculpture, a triad of legs, is adorned with intricate engravings of Maya glyphs and symbols, each telling a story of a time when humanity lived in harmony with the natural world. These glyphs, carefully rendered, invite viewers to delve into the rich tapestry of Maya history and their profound connection to the cosmos.

"Pacal Votan" serves not only as an exquisite work of art but also as a powerful narrative on the necessity of returning to a state of equilibrium with the Earth's natural rhythms. By embodying the wisdom of Pacal Votan, this sculpture challenges contemporary viewers to rethink their relationship with nature and to embrace sustainable practices inspired by ancient knowledge.

THUNDERING HOOVES

Type of Wood: Mahogany
Dimension: 6ft H x 4ft 5in W
Year: 2011

Thundering Hooves captures the raw power and frenetic energy of racing horses, immortalizing a moment where nature and speed converge in a breathtaking spectacle. Carved from resilient mahogany wood, sourced from driftwood along the beaches near the Municipal Airstrip in Belize City, this imposing sculpture stands at 6 feet high and 4 feet 5 inches wide.

The piece is a dynamic cacophony of horse bodies and hooves, intricately intertwined to convey the relentless rhythm and primal force of a galloping herd. Each horse, rendered with meticulous attention to detail, merges seamlessly into the next, creating a sense of continuous motion and boundless energy. The artist's skillful manipulation of the wood's natural grain enhances the fluidity and vitality of the composition, making the viewer feel as though they are witnessing the spectacle firsthand.

The mahogany's rich, warm tones lend an additional layer of depth and intensity to the sculpture, drawing the eye and inviting close inspection. The interplay of light and shadow across the piece's intricate surfaces highlights the muscular tension and explosive power of the horses, each curve and line echoing their fierce momentum.



FREEDOM UNBRIDLED

Type of Wood: Mahogany
Source: Sibun Estuary Near Belize City
Dimension: 4ft 9in H x 2ft 2in W
Year: 2011

Freedom Unbridled stands as a majestic tribute to the untamed spirit of nature, embodied in the graceful form of a horse. Carved from the revered mahogany wood, known as the National wood of Belize, this sculpture exudes strength, beauty, and a sense of boundless freedom.

Standing at 4'9", the horse extends upwards, its mane cascading in a wild flourish behind it. Every curve and contour of the sculpture speaks to the innate power and grace of the equine form, captured with exquisite detail and precision.

Sourced from driftwood collected from the Sibun Estuary near Belize City, the mahogany used in this sculpture carries with it a sense of connection to the land and its natural beauty. The natural texture of the driftwood speaks to the authenticity and unfiltered beauty of nature.



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CIRCLE OF LIFE

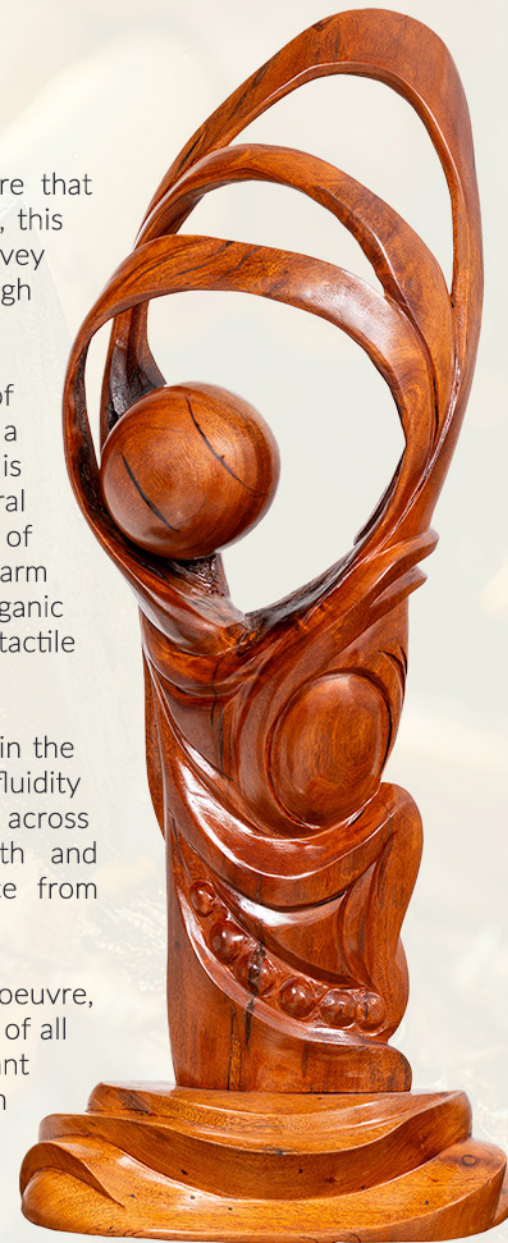
Type of Wood: Mahogany
Dimension: 2ft 11 1/4in H x 8 1/2in W
Year: 2024

Circle of Life is a captivating mahogany sculpture that stands just shy of three feet tall. Crafted in 2024, this piece showcases Gordon's profound ability to convey dynamic movement and profound symbolism through his medium.

The sculpture features a harmonious blend of flowing lines and smooth curves, encapsulating a spherical form at its heart. This central sphere is cradled by sinuous, ribbon-like extensions that spiral upwards, suggesting both the protective embrace of life and the cyclical nature of existence. The rich, warm tones of the mahogany enhance the sculpture's organic aesthetic, inviting viewers to engage with its tactile qualities.

Gordon's meticulous attention to detail is evident in the piece's intricate carvings, which evoke a sense of fluidity and continuity. The interplay of light and shadow across the polished surface brings a sense of depth and movement, creating a dynamic visual experience from every angle.

Circle of Life reflects themes central to Gordon's oeuvre, such as unity, balance, and the interconnectedness of all things. The sculpture's abstract yet deeply resonant form encourages viewers to reflect on their own place within the broader cycle of life, making it a profound addition to any collection.



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CRYING SHAME

Type of Wood: Mahogany
Dimension: 2ft 11.5in H x 1ft 4in W x 9in D
Year: 2024

Crying Shame embodies the intricate interplay of human emotion and natural form. Standing at nearly three feet tall, this striking piece is a testament to Gordon's masterful craftsmanship and deep connection to his cultural roots.

The sculpture's fluid lines and polished surface invite viewers to explore its multifaceted perspectives. From one angle, a serene, introspective face emerges, eyes closed as if in contemplation or sorrow. The artist's skillful use of the wood's natural grain and rich hues enhances the sculpture's organic feel, creating a harmonious blend of human and natural elements.

On the reverse, the form transforms, revealing abstract, undulating shapes that evoke the fluidity of tears and the rawness of emotion. This duality captures the essence of "Crying Shame," reflecting both the personal and universal nature of sorrow and introspection.

Carl Gordon's work often delves into themes of identity and emotional expression, drawing on his Belizean heritage to inform his artistic vision. "Crying Shame" stands as a poignant example of his ability to translate complex emotions into tangible, evocative forms.

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DIVINE LOVE

Type of Wood: Mahogany
Dimension: 5ft 4in H x 2ft 1in W
Year: 2009

Divine Love emanates a profound sense of tenderness and devotion, encapsulating the timeless bond between a mother and her child. In the style reminiscent of statues depicting the Virgin Mary, this sculpture portrays a mother of African descent cradling her child in her arms, their features suffused with serene grace and love.

Cloaked in flowing robes that cascade around her, the mother exudes an aura of maternal warmth and protection. The child, adorned with a rosary around his neck, symbolizes innocence and purity, nestled securely in the embrace of maternal love. Their shared gaze reflects an unspoken connection that transcends words.

At their feet, a faithful dog rests, a poignant symbol of loyalty and companionship. With its presence, the sculpture extends the theme of divine love to encompass the bond between humans and animals, celebrating the interconnectedness of all living beings.

"Divine Love" serves as an ode to the universal concept of love in its myriad forms—between mother and child, between humanity and the divine, and between humans and the creatures that share our world. It invites viewers to contemplate the profound beauty and significance of love as a unifying force that transcends boundaries and differences.



FROM CRADLE TO KINGS

Type of Wood: Mahogany
Dimension: 8ft 5in H x 3ft 5in W
Year: 2014

“From Cradle to Kings” is a compelling mahogany sculpture that vividly encapsulates the journey of American civilization, tracing the lineage from the ancient Olmec civilization to the grand heights of the Maya civilization. This intricate totem piece not only serves as an artistic representation but also a historical narrative, seamlessly blending cultural heritage and artistic expression.

At the base of the sculpture stands a figure representative of the Olmecs, the original peoples of the Americas. The bold, negroid features of the Olmec figure, with its thick lips and broad nose, reflect the distinct artistic style of the civilization that flourished from about 1500 BC to 400 BC. This foundation symbolizes the roots of Mesoamerican culture and acknowledges the speculated, albeit controversial, connections to the Mali Empire. The Olmecs’ legacy of stone carving in hard materials such as jade and basalt is echoed in the robust and enduring nature of the sculpture’s base.

Rising from this foundation, the totem transitions into the representations of the Classic Mayan civilization, which thrived from 250 AD to 900 AD. The Mayan influence is evident in the intricate carvings and hieroglyphs adorning the sculpture, reflecting their advancements in architecture, astronomy, mathematics, and writing. The shared artistic traditions between the Olmecs and the Mayans, particularly in stone carving, are visually represented through stylistic similarities that flow seamlessly from the base to the higher tiers of the totem.

A prominent feature of the sculpture is the snake, an emblematic symbol in Mayan culture. The snake’s tail in its mouth signifies the Mayan belief in the cyclical nature of life—creation, struggle, love, death, and renewal. This motif underscores the philosophical depth and spiritual beliefs that permeated Mayan society.

The glyphs and symbols engraved on the sculpture, such as ‘tubahi’ (meaning ‘On His Head’), reference specific Mayan practices like the tradition of cranial deformation to flatten the forehead, deemed attractive in their culture, and is featured prominently on the piece.

The sculpture also features a portrayal of Lady Pakal, wife of the famous Mayan King Pakal, adorned in a decorative skirt known as a ‘Piwil’. Her presence alongside King Pakal, who is depicted with a prominent ear piece called a ‘Tuup’, further enriches the narrative of Mayan royalty and heritage. The glyphs ‘yu-ne’ (his father’s child), ‘su-kun winik’ (Elder Brother), and ‘ya-al’ (Child of Man) intricately carved into the piece add layers of familial and societal significance.

Another significant figure in the totem is Lord Smoking Shell, a fierce warrior and young Mayan King from Lamanai in Northern Belize. His scepter and headdress are meticulously detailed, reflecting his authority and valor.

“From Cradle to Kings” stands as a multifaceted artwork that invites viewers to explore the rich tapestry of Mesoamerican history and culture. It is a visual and historical journey, offering a profound connection to the past and an appreciation for the artistic and intellectual achievements of these ancient civilizations.



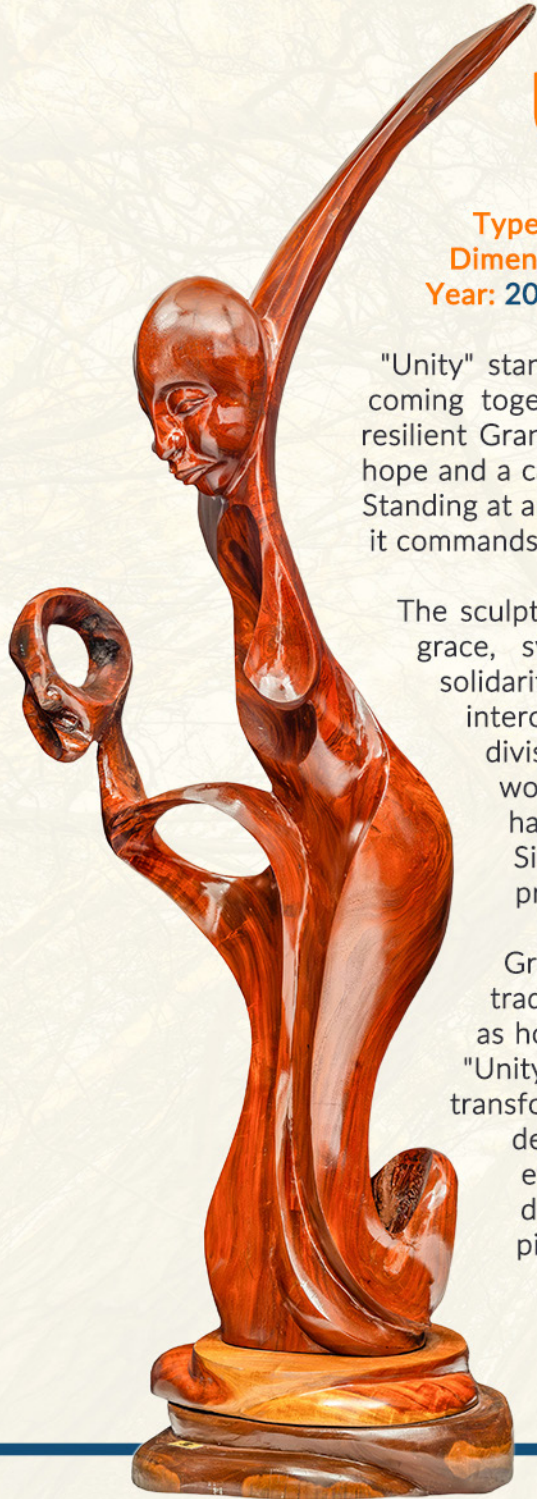
UNITY

Type of Wood: Granadillo (Mexican Rosewood)
Dimension: 7ft H x 2ft 10in W
Year: 2016

"Unity" stands as a powerful testament to the imperative of coming together and healing as a nation. Crafted from the resilient Granadillo wood, this sculpture serves as a beacon of hope and a call for unity amidst the challenges that face Belize. Standing at an impressive 7 feet high and 2 feet 10 inches wide, it commands attention and invites contemplation.

The sculpture's form is a harmonious blend of strength and grace, symbolizing the resilience and unity found in solidarity. Each curve and contour speaks to the interconnectedness of all Belizeans, transcending divisions and fostering a sense of shared purpose. The wood used for this sculpture was discovered half-buried and preserved in the sediments at the Sibun Bar Mouth near Belize City, infusing it with a profound sense of history and resilience.

Granadillo, known for its durability and strength, is traditionally used for fence posts in pasturelands and as house posts or pillars to support wooden houses. In "Unity," this sturdy wood takes on a new life, transformed into a symbol of collective strength and determination. The craftsmanship is impeccable, with every detail meticulously rendered to convey the depth of emotion and conviction embodied in the piece.



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BLACK STRUGGLE

Type of Wood: Ziricote
Dimension: 5ft 8in H x 2ft 8in W
Year: 2022

"Black Struggle" emerges from the depths of memory, a tribute to the resilience forged in the fires of life's trials. Inspired by the steadfast gaze of a woman etched in childhood recollection, amidst the vibrant chaos of the Old Market, this sculpture breathes life into the silent narrative of survival.

Carved from ziricote wood hailing from the northern reaches of Xunuch, each knot and grain whispers tales of hardship endured. The journey from forest to workshop mirrors the arduous path of the human struggle—fraught with obstacles, yet driven by an unyielding spirit.

In the contours of her face, etched with lines of resolve, lies a story of defiance and triumph. Each curve speaks volumes, a silent anthem to the indomitable will to overcome. As viewers trace the intricate lines, they are drawn into a dance of reflection, glimpsing echoes of their own battles waged and victories won.

"Black Struggle" transcends its wooden form, a beacon of strength and hope amidst the tumult of existence.



BENIN KING

Type of Wood: Mahogany
Dimension: 5ft 1/2in H x 2ft 4in W x 2ft D
Year: 2022

The Benin King emerges from the depths of history, a testament to the enduring legacy of West Africa's ancient rulers. Crafted from richly textured wood, this sculpture captures the essence of regal authority and cultural heritage, offering a glimpse into the storied past of the Kingdom of Benin.

With regal bearing and dignified countenance, the Benin King is depicted in all his majesty, a symbol of authority and wisdom passed down through generations. Set upon a two-tiered wooden pedestal, the bust of the Benin King commands attention, surrounded by carved tools that symbolize the craftsmanship and ingenuity of his people. Each tool bears the imprint of a bygone era, a testament to the artisanal skills that flourished under his rule.

As viewers behold the sculpture, they are transported back in time to an era of unparalleled sophistication and power. The Benin King's gaze, both commanding and benevolent, invites reverence and respect, offering a glimpse into a bygone world of dynastic splendor.



EMANCIPATION

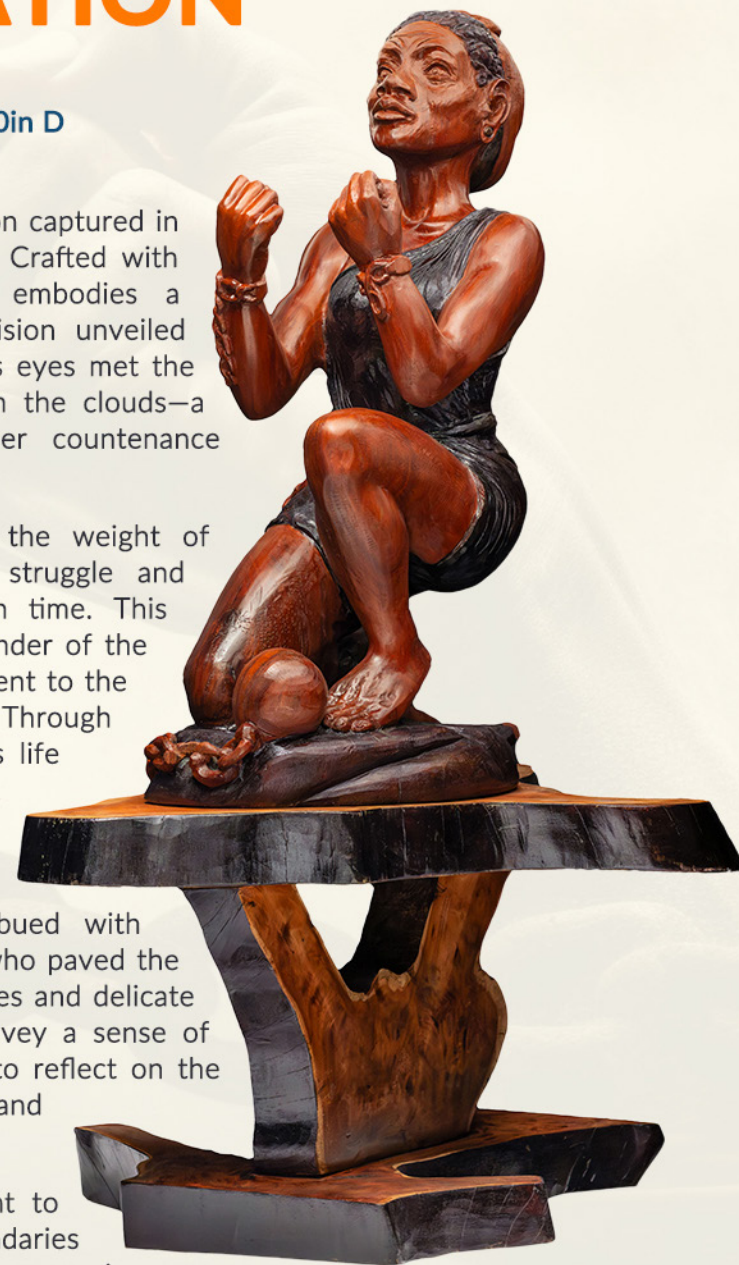
Type of Wood: Mahogany
Dimension: 5ft H x 4ft 2in W x 2ft 10in D
Year: 2021

Emancipation is a profound revelation captured in the rich grains of mahogany wood. Crafted with meticulous detail, this sculpture embodies a moment of divine inspiration, a vision unveiled during a morning jog. As the artist's eyes met the sky, a striking image emerged from the clouds—a woman, poised on her knees, her countenance radiating gratitude and liberation.

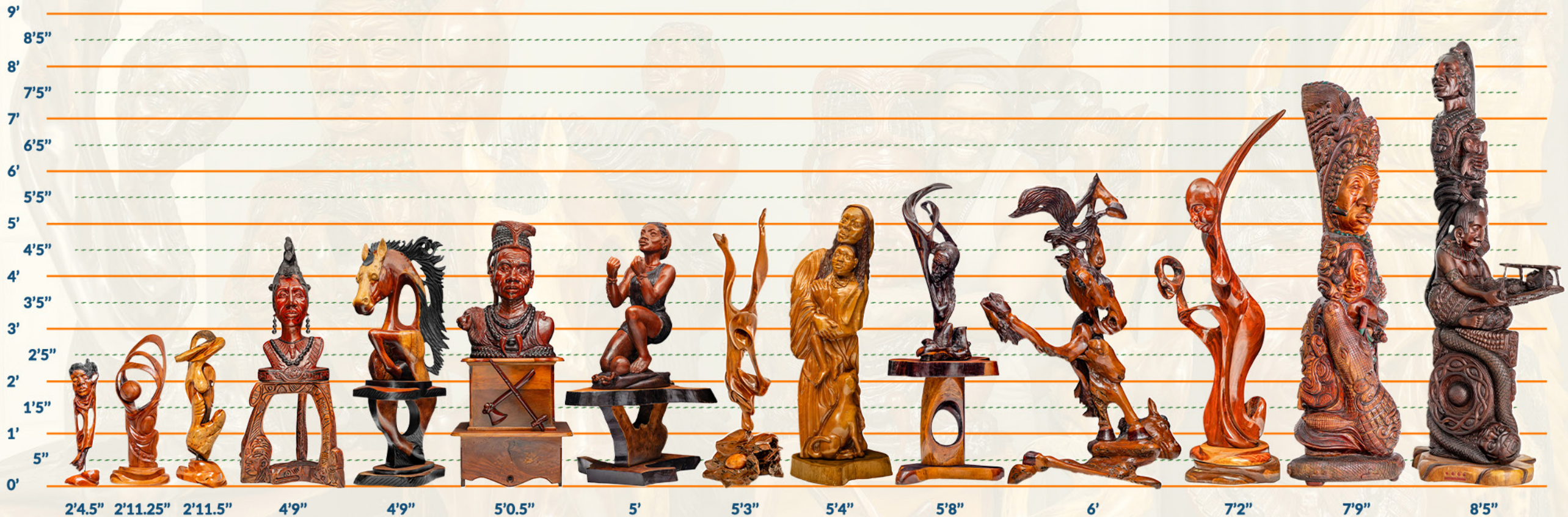
In her posture, one can discern the weight of generations past, the echoes of struggle and perseverance reverberating through time. This sculpture serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring legacy of slavery, a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Through intricate carving, the artist breathes life into this moment of revelation, inviting viewers to contemplate the journey from bondage to freedom.

Each stroke of the chisel is imbued with reverence, honoring the ancestors who paved the way for liberation. The smooth curves and delicate contours of the woman's form convey a sense of grace and dignity, inviting viewers to reflect on the universal quest for freedom and self-discovery.

Emancipation stands as a testament to the power of art to transcend boundaries and illuminate the human experience, serving as a symbol of hope and resilience, a beacon of light amidst the shadows of history.



A VISUAL SCALE OF CARL GORDON'S SCULPTURES



Explore the diverse range of Carl Gordon's artistry through this visual representation of the Tanglewood Collection. This graphic illustrates the relative sizes of Carl Gordon's sculptures, providing a visual comparison to help appreciate the scale and detail of each piece.



Scan the QR code to learn more about these pieces and how you can secure your very own Carl Gordon original.

If you'd like to see these sculptures in person and experience their exquisite artistry at full scale, contact Jovan Guerrero at [Madison's Auctions and Appraisals](#) at +501-614-3916 to schedule a viewing.

MASTER SCULPTOR CARL GORDON

Carl Gordon, a Belizean artist, is renowned for his extraordinary talent in transforming wood into profound works of art that resonate with cultural and historical significance. Each piece in Gordon's portfolio tells a unique story, carved meticulously from native woods such as mahogany and cedar. His works are deeply inspired by personal experiences, historical events, and cultural heritage, capturing the essence of human emotion and resilience.

The Tanglewood Collection, Gordon's latest series, showcases his mastery in woodworking and his dedication to storytelling through sculpture. This collection features a diverse range of pieces, each intricately detailed and rich with narrative. From the poignant "Emancipation," which honors the enduring legacy of slavery, to the majestic "Cradle to Kings," highlighting the journey from humble beginnings to regal grandeur of the Mayan Civilization, Gordon's sculptures invite viewers into a contemplative space where history and art converge.

Gordon's works are not merely decorative; they are profound statements on identity, culture, and human experience. His ability to breathe life into wood, capturing both the physical form and the emotional depth of his subjects, sets him apart as a distinguished artist in the contemporary art scene. The Tanglewood Collection is a testament to his skill and vision, offering art lovers and collectors a chance to own a piece of Belize's rich artistic heritage.



For years, Carl Gordon has held onto the many pieces in his Tanglewood Collection, cherishing them for their deep sentimental value and the personal stories they embody. Now, he feels the time is right to share these profound works of art with the world.

In partnership with **Madison's Auctions and Appraisals**, Carl Gordon is excited to offer these unique sculptures to art enthusiasts and collectors everywhere, allowing others to experience and appreciate the beauty and meaning behind each piece.

To see the artworks & learn more:
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