

CONNIE WAWRUCK-HEMMETT



QUEEN CARNIVAL - front view

Mixed media \$770.00 10 x 25 x 15 inches



QUEEN CARNIVAL - back view

Mixed media \$770.00 10 x 25 x 15 inches

While living in Trinidad and Tobago during the seventies, I had the good fortune to witness the local Carnival, T'n'T's version of Mardi Gras. I also fell in love with the musicality of the local patois, which I appreciated not only in the speech of the local inhabitants, but also in the Calypso music that was a major feature of "Mas". This story in poetic form is therefore written using that dialect. A glossary of terms that are not easily recognized is appended.

Trini 'n' Baigo Celebration Time we gather All de nation.	Soft hair 'n' eyes Dark as de nigh' Sweet brown suga' Na bingo bags, righ'?
Jouvay mornin' Hustle bustle Sailors, minstrels, Stretch dey muscles.	Calypso King comin' He see she dere Him tootoolbay Dress 'round hair. Buh way nah Wa dat soun'?
Roam dem streets Ruckus causin' Playin' dey game Wit'out pausin'	Steelpan mebe Comin' roun'?
Mas camp evenin' Bands dey limin' Time fer dressin' An' fer winin'	Do de bang-bang Shake dat bam-bam Drink dat babaash Don giv' a damn
All dat finery Gold 'n' silver Feathers 'n' beads Flow lak river	Mornin' na comin' Windin' down Time for Queen Leave de town.
She walk de road Proud 'n' tall Local beauty Queen Carnival	Back to de job Sam' ol' ting Til next year fete Celebratin' agin.

Glossary:

babaash – bootleg rum

bam bam – buttocks

bang-bang – dance back to belly

bingo bags – granny panties

bu' way – but wait

dress 'round – move over

Jouvay – first morning "j'ouvert"

limin' – hanging around

Mas – Carnival parade

Mas camp – where costumes are made

na -- now

sam' ol' ting – usual routine

steelpan – oil drum musical instrument

tootoolbay – dazed by love

winin' – sensuous dance