

The “DOVE” Memorial Arts Scholarship Fund

A Crucian Painter’s Legacy

*In memoriam of Lloyd “DOVE” Braffith,
St. Croix Foundation honors the first Crucian painter’s legacy.*



When Lloyd “Dove” Braffith started painting for a living in the 1950s, he had no role model. In fact, prior to Dove, no Crucian had ever made his living from painting canvases. Although he was not formally educated in the arts, by the time he passed away in 2002, Dove was not only a respected artist but an icon of his island and a bearer of cultural history. Today, his legacy lives on with the Dove Memorial Arts Scholarship, a St. Croix

Foundation fund that provides opportunities to youth wishing to pursue a career in the arts, from creative writing and dancing to painting and graphic media design.

As the first Crucian painter, Dove is the role model that he himself never had. Starting as early as the 6th grade, Dove spent almost half his life painting the historic towns of St. Croix and his community. He did not sit in a stuffy art studio far above his muse, but instead painted on the street, talked to the people, and became known for his perspective and ability to capture the spirit of St. Croix.

On Dove’s 62nd birthday, two of his greatest admirers, Donald and Patricia Weeden, became Dove’s official patron. Concerned about Dove’s declining health, they set up a fund at the Foundation to pay for Dove’s rent, food, medical care, and art supplies. In turn, Dove provided artwork to the Foundation that was to be used in a Dove Showcase, with proceeds providing financial security to Dove to continue his work.

Sadly, just prior to the planned show, Dove passed away. In his death, Dove was at peace, laid to rest with his prized possessions: a few half-empty tubes of acrylic paint; his palette dabbed with countless hues of the Caribbean; and in his pigment stained right hand, he held three sable brushes.

Soon after, St. Croix Foundation, the Virgin Islands Council for the Arts, and several of DOVE’s greatest supporters published the “DOVE Retrospective” catalog and held his posthumous showcase.

The Foundation then established the Dove Memorial Arts Scholarship Fund in 2003 with continued support from the Weedens and Attorney Diane Russell. To date, DOVE Scholarships have provided awards to young people pursuing careers in the arts, including Alexzandra Wheeler, Ashlee Douglas, Chantel Abbott, Elle Nielsen, Frances Ruiz, Cerella Gonzalez, Jenna Thomas, Jessica Willock, Jonelle Hepburn, Lekisha Rantan, Music in Motion, Nayyirah Wilson, Nicholas Henry, Safisha Cornelius, Shakyma Mercado, Sonny Ortiz, Tamara Gore, Whitly Charles, Yaira Bermudez, and Y-maniah Richards.



DOVE’s Legacy

The Dove Memorial Arts Scholarship focuses on the importance of supporting our youth and preserving our island’s unique culture, history, and artistic spirit.

*Support youth, arts,
culture, and be a part
of the legacy.*

Contact St. Croix Foundation today to order your full-color version of the DOVE RETROSPECTIVE. Call us today at 340.773.9898 or email staff@stxfoundation.org.

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