

Caribbean Venus, Caribbean Queen

2020

Botticelli gave Europe a goddess arriving on a shell, blown ashore by the west wind and met with a cloak. Caribbean Venus, Caribbean Queen asks a simple question of that painting: who was allowed to be born beautiful, and who was left out of the frame? Here Venus comes ashore on our water. The scallop becomes a conch, the zephyrs become trade winds, and the goddess is a Black and brown woman carrying the poise the canon reserved for marble. I work her through several languages at once — the painterly master study, cubist facets that break her into planes of gold and teal, pop-art saturation, prismatic colour-pencil light, and surrealist stillness where doves and roses hold the horizon. The shifting styles are the point: a queen does not have one portrait. She survives translation. Venus was never only Florentine — she was always going to reach these shores, and when she did, she arrived crowned.





Caribbean Venus — the master painting





Venus and the doves



Venus in pop — tulip and flask

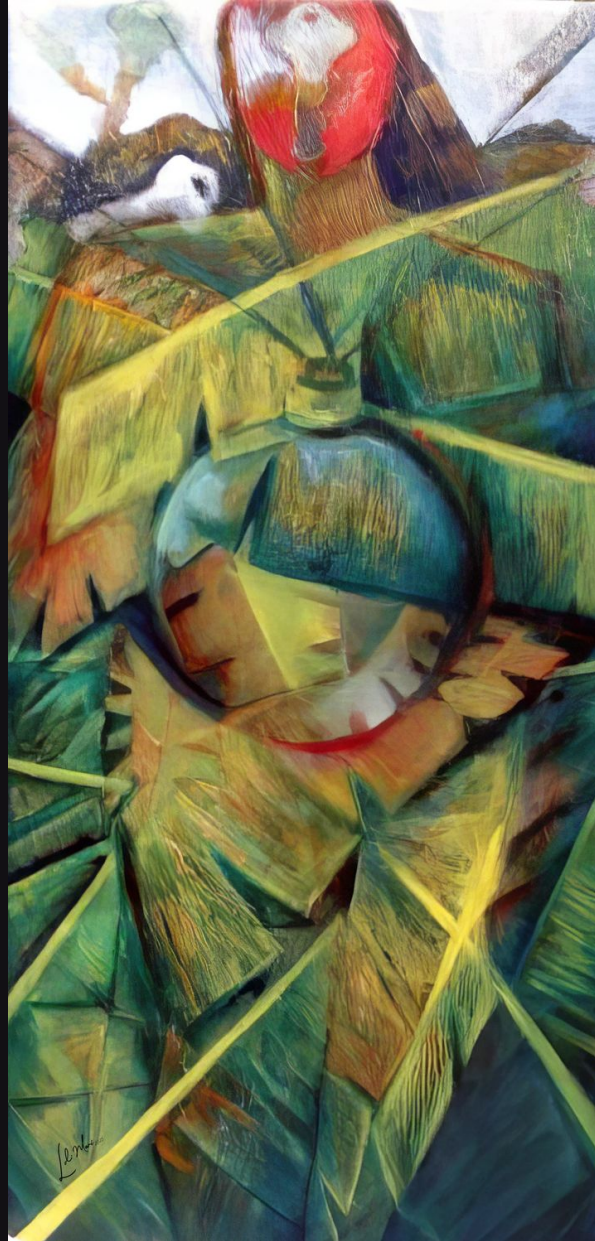


Venus of the reef

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Venus Emerging — the shell crown







Venus of the Shore



Venus and the Rising Sun

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