

Mounia's Vision

Having traveled all over the world, especially living and working in Japan as an international top model, Mounia is inspired by the people, landscape, the energy and beauty of Osaka and Kyoto which influenced me to paint a collection reflecting what I refer to as Katamate.

The haute couture in general provides a sensibility about the colors, movement, fabrics, design, especially in Japan haute couture. Further, I am Martinique French Creole and the *metissage* of my personal inspiration with the Japanese gives rise to Katamate.

I am a self taught painter, using combinations of different materials such as oils, silk fabrics, collage with Japanese symbols and flowers of bamboo using the my hands and the *couteau*. My principle work is abstraction, however I love also to do figurative and *paiege*. Katamate I was presented in the Carribean and Katamate II in Eruope and I am pleased to debut Katamate III New York.

SAVACOU GALLERY

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Black Fashion Icon Turned Celebrated Artist in Premier New York Exhibition

SAVACOU GALLERY, FEBRUARY 22 - 29, 2008

New York, NY – Mounia, the Martinique-born former model and muse of the great couturier Yves Saint Laurent, now an international celebrated artist and singer will have the American premier of her paintings at Savacou Gallery on Friday, February 22, 2008 from 6-10 PM, 240 East 13th Street, NYC. Entitled “Mounia Expose”, this exhibition of Mounia’s recent paintings will be showcased through February 28th.

After a career in the field of fashion, Mounia, the first Black model used by Saint Laurent, discovered her musical and artistic talents. She began painting in 1997 and demonstrates exceptional talent with oil on canvas. Figurative painter Bernard Buffet, a recognized master whose paintings are in museums around the world was Mounia's mentor. A self-taught artist, she also drew inspiration from the Martinique born painters Henri Guedon, and Genvieve Mouresse who she calls her "eyes," and from the sculptor Guilio Cesare Procaccini, each incredibly significant in Mounia's artistic development. Her paintings have been exhibited in galleries across France, the Ivory Coast, Monaco, Japan, Guyana and her native Martinique.

While she has retired from the field of professional modeling, Mounia is still sought after for professional appearances and participates in fashion events as a guest star. She is engaged in many artistic activities and humanitarian works supporting such causes as disadvantaged children both in Africa and the Caribbean.

Savacou Gallery, a pioneer in the promotion of art by artists of color celebrates its 23rd anniversary this year. According to Loris Crawford the Gallery's founder, "Our mission is the promotion of artist of color and we are always seeking to create greater awareness of the artistic talent of African-descended artists globally. With this new exhibit we are particularly proud to honor Mounia, a pioneer in her own right."