

Kapo, Brown swap soon

A Jamaican-American cultural exchange will begin in New York City on May 19, with an exhibition of paintings by the well known Jamaican artist, Kapo. In exchange for Kapo's visit, Frederick J. Brown, an American artist of equal stature — one of his paintings hangs in the White House collection of President and Nancy Reagan — will travel to Jamaica at the end of May to present a painting to John Gentles, Jamaica's Director of Tourism.

The exhibition of Kapo's work will be held at Brown's Soho studio, and will be accompanied by a reception in celebration of Kapo. 20 paintings will be exhibited of which six are for sale. The cultural exchange between these two artists provides an opportunity to explore similarities and differences between the American and Caribbean artistic development stemming from an African heritage.

At the age of 71, Kapo is regarded as one of the finest primitive artists in the world. Although he has temporarily stopped sculpting, the wood carvings and paintings he created over the past three decades have no equal among Caribbean intuitive artists. Selden Rodman, one of the foremost critics of Caribbean art has said of Kapo, "The intensity of his figures, the originality of his colour, and his sense of design are extraordinary".

In 1981 one of his paintings was the wedding present from the Jamaican government to Prince Charles and Princess Diana, and in April of this year a presentation of one of his paintings was made to the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Carstens, on his visit to Jamaica



JAMAICAN ARTIST, KAPO, FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN JAMAICA AND AMERICA.

Kapo was awarded the Order of Distinction in 1977 by the Jamaican government for his outstanding contribution to the arts.

Frederick Brown's equally distinguished record includes being one of the few black American artists to have a painting in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan

Museum of Art. He terms himself an expressionistic figurative painter and has also worked in other mediums such as videotape and architecture.

The exchange is sponsored by the Jamaica Tourist Board, Air Jamaica and the Rose Hall Intercontinental Hotel in Montego Bay.