

## OPENING-SPEECH

### ART & JUSTICE AUCTION OF (MOSTLY) LOCAL ARTWORKS 16 MAY 2026

at SOBREMESA Art Center & Gallery, J.A. Abraham Blvd. 10, Bonaire<sup>1</sup>.

1) First of all, we thank Sobremesa and all these fine mostly local artists and other persons who so graciously donated artworks, so that we have something very special to auction off here tonight. See the complete List of contributing artists at the end of the text of this document.

And we thank all of you, potential buyers and interested persons for being here, also helping to make this event possible.

1) Special thanks also to Art & Bonairean mythology expert, Sr. Frans Booi, whose discourses are always interesting.

2) And special thanks also to our 'Martihero' (Auctioneer) Sr. Albert Christiaan. He is doing this job for the first time in his life, so give him some slack. But we are sure he will do a great job, because our source has told us he will. We trust our source. And we now know our source was correct.

As to the meaning of this event, consider the following:

We all know Justice as the basis for the handling of court cases. But why not use Justice as a peaceful method for cultural, economic, spiritual and even political development?

Art is already being used in this way. The painting called 'Trump's Wall' by Monica Trujillo, which is one of the paintings sold at the auction, is an example.

The message in this painting is that Contradiction has a way to Predict. While Trump now does everything he can to 'contradict' and stop migration, the prediction is that migration will happen anyway and even at a hugely bigger scale in the future. We cannot prove this, but we



can say that there is only one World. And we, the people, did not create this World.

So, it is all the world's people who really own it. Therefore, one day, all people everywhere will be free to live wherever they choose. If not, there is no freedom.

If not, there is no equality. If not, there is no fraternity. But these three basically spiritual ideals are already enshrined in our global culture. So, one day, it will happen.

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<sup>1</sup> See the Art & Justice Poster and address directions to find Sobremesa on the page following the List of contributing artists.

The painting 'Trump's Wall' depicts and predicts this. On it we see a 'Huge Big Beautiful Wall', as Trump would call it. But the people climb over it anyway. So, we see how Art in its own way predicts. And plants seeds in the viewers' minds.

In the same way, Justice in the form of principled Court Cases can be used to propel humanity forward, especially since politics is increasingly incapable of doing so. So, artistic, legal and spiritual means can and will be used more and more to enlighten and inspire people to a higher calling.

As an example, we mention the recent ecological Court Case between Greenpeace and Bonaire vs. the Dutch State. The District Court in the Hague ruled that the Dutch State violates human rights by failing to protect Bonaire residents from climate change. An appeal has been lodged, so it is not a done deal yet. But this case proves that principled Court Cases can propel government forward.

And this was certainly not the first such type of case.

Now, do note that this case was won, at least in the first instance. But obviously not all court cases against government are won. Most are lost. Statistically only about 20% to 30% of such cases are won. But that is not so important as it may seem. Of course, nobody starts a Case with the intention to lose. But when talking about principled Court Cases another effect kicks in.

Gandhi was the first to express it clearly. He said the following:

*'If you take care of the means, the ends will take care of themselves'.*

In other words, if your means or your methods are just and peaceful, your just and peaceful ends or goals will follow by themselves. Now, understand clearly. You cannot give it a timeline. Just keep on applying the just and peaceful means. When the time is ripe, the ends or the results will materialize.

Automatically! Just as certain as  $2 + 2$  equals 4.

This is where our foundation's name comes from. We have created a new word, namely the word 'Meand', as a combination of the words 'Means' and 'End'. So, it becomes 'Meand'. 'The Golden Meand Society' foundation, GMS for short.

There is a Buddhist saying which expresses the same idea.

It goes like this: *'It is good to have an END to walk or work towards, but it is the MEANS that matter in the end'.*



GMS's Logo

By the way, Gandhi was not the first to apply this principle. In fact, if we consider Christ and the Buddha, we see that they really did the very same thing. Which goes to show that, if you want to apply the MEAND, you must indeed totally detach from the timeline. It has been +/- 2,500.- since Buddha's birth. So, the timeline does not count.

So, the means or methods blend with the ends or goals. We have combined the words 'means' and 'end' to form the new word 'MEAND'. And artists will no doubt know about the Golden Mean or the Golden or Divine Ratio, which gives artworks that inexplicable beauty-appeal. That principle is also expressed in the foundation's name.

So, you see how Art and Justice – if applied in this way – really do belong together. And that is why it is so important that the Golden Meand Society foundation can continue its work for long years to come. Forever, really. But at least long after I (author of these notes) will be gone. Because Art and Justice have no timeline. These two are eternal.

Which is why we leave you now with one Grand Suggestion for the future. It is this. There are now two leading Art Centers on Bonaire, namely SACA and Sobremesa. Art is gaining ground fast on Bonaire, as we together are proving tonight. We suggest that these two Art Centers start working together with the Golden Meand Society Foundation and our Government to set up an annual Bonaire Art Festival Week ending in an Art & Justice Auction.

And we suggest that all local artists come together and set up an Association of Bonairean Artists as the fifth pillar of the Bonaire Art Festival Week. Yes, I am willing to help with the legal part of that.

Start first with Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire. And as it grows, include more ex-Antillean and Caribbean islands. So that this Bonaire Art Festival Week may become Bonaire's second Antillean/Caribbean annually recurring event, next to the Regatta.

It will boost all five organizations and Bonaire will become known as the Art & Justice island, which is also an attraction for a special kind of tourists. Include only visual arts, poetry/literature and theatre. But leave out music. That is done elsewhere already. So, no music. No, Bonaire does something special. Because Bonaire is special!

When you make a suggestion, ladies and gentlemen, you must make sure that it is a big one. Well, here it is.

Thank you very much for your attention and for being here. And have a nice and productive evening.

Bonaire, 16 May 2026

At the occasion of the first Art & Justice Auction on Bonaire.  
Michiel Bijkerk



*GMS's Logo in  
3 dimensions*

## **With work from:**

**Manuela Winklaar**

**Jean Girigorie**

**Monica Truijlo**

**Carlos Porras**

**Diana Rueda**

**Ria Koster**

**Michel Poort**

**Lize van de Ven**

**Germaine Nijdam**

**José Smit**

**Paul Turner**

**Dillon Rannou**

**Eric Cremers**

**Jozee Tjoa**

**Loes Praagman**

**Muzo**

**Winfred Dania**

**Karen Shiman**

**Steven Verbiest**

**Louise van der Zwaag**

**Asyla ten Holt**

**Brenda Bultema**



# ART & JUSTICE

## ART EXPO & AUCTION

MAY  
16

5 PM

ABRAHAM BOULEVARD 10

SOBREMESA AND THE GOLDEN MEAND SOCIETY PRESENT THE ART&JUSTICE ART EXPO AND AUCTION. 85% OF ALL PROCEEDS GO TO GOLDEN MEAND SOCIETY. FOR MORE INFO: [www.arcoarib.com](http://www.arcoarib.com)

 [www.sobremesa-bonaire.com](http://www.sobremesa-bonaire.com)

*Sobremesa*  
KAS DI ARTE

