

EDWARD THORP GALLERY
Press Release



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Haitian Masters: 1950 to 1980s

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The paintings in this show by four self-taught artists are primarily landscapes. They're all lushly tropical and loaded with color, but the styles vary widely. Bourmond Byron's work from the early sixties captured Haitian life with a soft, romantic touch that surprises, given the often brutal subject matter (which includes ritual sacrifices). Wesner La Forest's paintings from the same period are appealingly flat, with broad sweeps of color that can recall Matisse. Peterson Laurent's vibrant still-lives and everyday scenes from the mid-fifties capture a Haiti in flux—in one, fish frolic while a smoke-spewing U.S. battleship lurks in the background. Odilon Pierre's moody paintings from the seventies and eighties flirt with abstraction—note the bright crowd scene in which distant heads dissolve into a pattern of dots. Through April 14.