

FRANK WALTER

28 March – 23 May 2015

Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh

Francis Archibald Wentworth Walter, self-styled 7th Prince of the West Indies, Lord of Follies and the Ding-a-Ding Nook, was born in Antigua in 1926. He was prodigiously talented as both a writer and artist, but his undeniable genius was flawed by delusions of aristocratic grandeur, namely a belief that the white slave owners in his ancestry linked him to the noble houses of Europe, from Charles II to Franz Joseph of Austria and the Dukes of Buccleuch.



As a young man, aged just 22 in 1948, Walter tasted success as the first black Antiguan to manage one of the island's sugar plantations, but although revered on the island for his intellect and achievements he left it all behind to tour Europe in pursuit of new skills and his own increasingly convoluted genealogical meanderings. A visit to Scotland in the early 1950s marked the beginnings of a life-long affection for a country to which he repeatedly returned in his imagination and in his paintings.

His gifts were the product of a fertile, but fragile, mind and having returned to the Caribbean he spent the last twenty five years of his life in an isolated shack on an Antiguan hillside, surrounded by his writings (some 25,000 closely-typed pages of history, philosophy and autobiography) and by the extraordinary paintings and carvings that speak with such an unmistakable voice and which announce the discovery of one of the most intriguing and distinctive Caribbean artists of the last 50 years.

The proposed exhibition will present the most comprehensive view yet of Frank Walter the artist; assembled from private collections, and from the artist's estate.



For images and further information, please contact Ingleby Gallery on 0131 556 4441 or email info@inglebygallery.com

Images from top :

Frank Walter , *King Size Soul* oil on Record sleeve, 31.3 x 31.3 cm

Frank Walter, Works from *Landscape Series*, oil on Polaroid card, 10 x 8.5 cm