

B/N Manley, Edna.



OM for Edna Manley

Mrs. Edna Manley, widow of National Hero, Norman Manley and mother of Prime Minister Michael Manley has been awarded the Order of Merit (OM).

Presentation of the insignia by Governor General Florizel Glasspole took place on Monday during the opening of Mrs. Manley's new exhibition of sculpture and drawings, "Edna Manley: The Seventies" at the National Gallery. The work represents Manley's accomplishments in the 1970's.

The presentation followed a surprise announcement which came at the end of a tribute paid to Mrs. Manley by Professor Rex Nettleford, chairman of the council of the Institute of Jamaica, under whose aegis the National Gallery falls.

The citation, read by Professor Nettleford stated that the award was conferred on Mrs. Manley "sculptor, humanist, patriot, and animalucur to two generations of Jamaican and Caribbean creative talent" ... "firstly, for her original, unique and lasting contribution to the development of art and literature in Jamaica and for the central role she has helped to make them play in the self-government movement and the process of nation building, and, secondly, in recognition of the considerable international distinction and eminence she has achieved both for herself and for her country in the field of sculpture."

In reply, Mrs. Manley thanked her friends for coming to support her. She said a country wasn't a country until somebody loved it. "A work of art doesn't come alive until somebody loves it, even owns it," she said.

"There were storms rocking the world," Mrs. Manley said and she advised her audience to "go back to the love of country, the love of people, the love of work. We are small but can have great achievements."

Mrs. Manley was warmly applauded and one of the first to congratulate her, was Prime Minister Michael Manley who headed a large and enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers drawn from the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, the artists' colony, and other areas of Jamaican life.

After the ceremony, many people took the opportunity to have their catalogues autographed and to offer congratulations to Mrs. Manley.

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