

Bazile, Castera (1923-1965; Haitian)
Jacmel, Haiti

EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- Self-taught

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- Primitive style characterized by bright colors, distorted proportions and a spatial composition that does not conform to traditional conventions.
- Tells story of his own culture/beliefs.

KIA WORK-*Festival*, oil on panel, 1954

- Carnival scene called Rara festival, a colorful event that originated with rural peasants. Similar to Mardi Gras and follows the Christian season of Lent.
- Celebrants express their social and political views, often with satire. Flamboyant costumes with masks are worn.
- Haitian art often depicts elements of both Christianity and voodoo. Figures in red and blue at the lower left repel evil spirits with their staffs. They represent Ogoun Feray, the god of war. Red and blue also the colors of the Haitian flag. The woman on the balcony is a voodoo initiate, or hounsai (white clothing/head scarf). The skeletal figure in white held above the crowd alludes to both Christian and voodoo beliefs.

