



By **MAUREEN SANTANA**

THE past, the present and the future cannot be better expressed than through the work of an artist.

In Papua New Guinea, the exposure and appreciation for art is growing at a very slow pace compared to the early post-Independence period when art played a big part in nation building.

Art is still a part of this country's culture and holds paramount significance to addressing development issues. Artists are social critics who help to engage questions about cultural identity, visually and aurally. We see what artists create, concepts that link values of the past, to the present and the future.

Tom Deko, Cathy Kata, Martin Morububuna, Claytus Yambon and Dr Michael Mel will be present at the 'Hailans to Ailans' exhibition opening this September 16 at Rebecca Hossack

Art Gallery in Fitzroy Square, London.

The exhibition opens on the day of our Independence anniversary and will showcase five major Contemporary Artists with distinctively different art forms in two parts in two continents: The Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery and the Alcheringa Gallery in Victoria, Canada. This gives the artist enhancement opportunity in cross culture sharing.

The opportunity allows PNG artists from the four regions to part take. The title 'Hailans to Ailans' translates to Highland to the Islands.

The featuring works includes sculpture using a variety of media as in wood and metal, performance, fibre art

and paintings.

Each month, this column will feature art stories from artist throughout the country. Art is not just visual but appeals to all the senses and translates into a thousand words in its reception. This column is open to artist's views and events throughout the country.

If you want to inform readers on art call Maureen Santana telephone 309 1025 or email [msantana@spp.com.pg](mailto:msantana@spp.com.pg).