

Calabash

A JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ARTS AND LETTERS

Volume 3, Number 1: Fall/Spring 2004/2005

Information about this work:

Cruelty Sea Maid

By: SUSAN BRENNAN

Start Page: 101

URL: <http://library.nyu.edu/calabash/vol3no1/0301101.pdf>

Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters is an international literary journal dedicated to publishing works encompassing, but not limited to, the Anglophone, Francophone, Hispanophone and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The Journal is especially dedicated to presenting the arts and letters of those communities that have long been under-represented within the creative discourse of the region, among them: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, Maroon societies, and the Asian and Amerindian societies of the region. Calabash has a strong visual arts component.

Calabash is published by New York University. Please contact the publisher for further permissions regarding the use of this work. Publisher information may be obtained at: **<http://library.nyu.edu/calabash/about.html>**

Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters

© 2004 New York University

Susan Brennan

CRUELTY SEA MAID

• • •

I was the only one to hear the sailors;
sea songs, sad shanties, the salt broken air.
Waves, my pillows, waves, waves, my home.

I shadowed their journey, captured
what was tossed overboard:
a portrait of a beauty, black hair, black eyes.

Sometimes I would haunt them,
imitate a cricket or beloved dog.
Don't dream so loud, sweet sailors, hush, hush.

I return to my reef, fire coral, black coral.
As where fish sleep, their impulsive return
to the same bit of reef, night after night, fire coral, black coral.