

Time People Forgot

ART IN REVIEW

by Natalie Coleman



Patrick Broderick called his new show at the National Gallery 'Time People Forgot' not because he believes that we have forgotten our recent past but because "we all need a little reminder from time to time on where we are coming from". This exhibition, a collection of unpublished photographs taken by Mr Broderick between 1979 and 1999 is set to do just that. It carefully illustrates a cross section of Cayman and the Caymanian people over a 20-year period and promises to be a show that will take many on a walk down memory lane as well as delight the younger generation and persons new to the island.

Those familiar with Patrick's work will agree that he focuses his talents on all areas of photography ranging from portraiture to architecture, but his passion has always stemmed from his intrigue in people and their

lifestyles. "I am drawn to incorporating the human element in my work," explains the photographer. "I feel that documenting people helps to convey the spirit of a time, the character and life of a place." Among the many portraits people will recognise are those of John Gray, Annie Holder Bodden, Jim Bodden and Theo Bodden. "Many young people will have no memory of what these individuals looked like and they each played important roles in developing the Cayman that we know today," Patrick explains.

Other images include scenes from both land and sea such as Richfield Wreck, a key landmark at East End, the Wreck of the Mick Trader Pageant Beach and Dr Roy's House. Several of the subjects are still standing but some have disappeared underwater or been lost in the process of development. Patrick's stark images serve as ghostly reminders of these losses.

The photographs in the exhibit span Patrick's 23-year career as a professional photographer. He explains that he

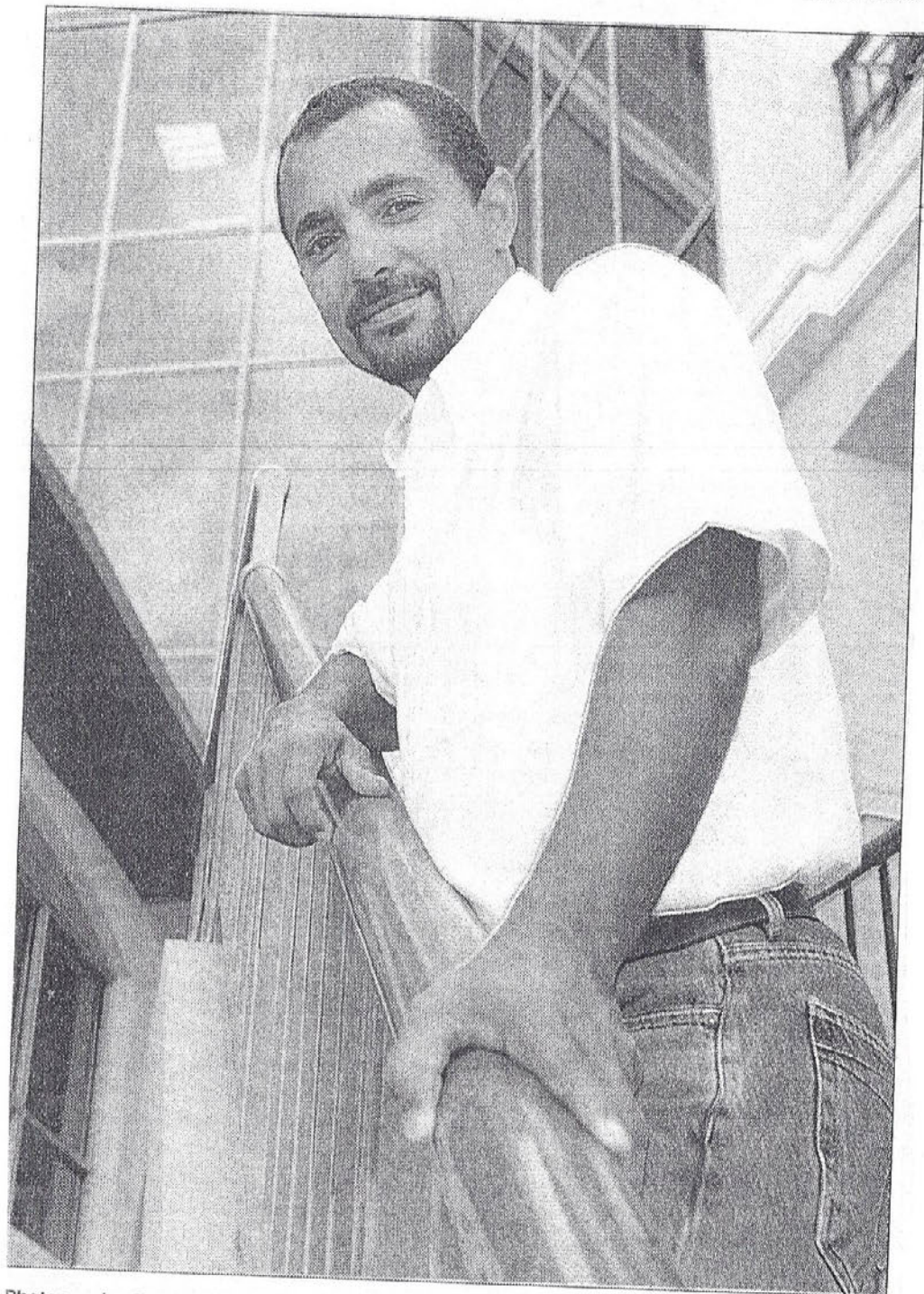
has been interested in photography ever since he can remember but it was upon winning the Kodak Youth Award in the 1973 Jamaica Festival that his career path was clear to him. Patrick moved to Cayman from Jamaica with his family in 1977 and two years later opened a commercial studio in Cayman. After 17 years he decided to work freelance from his home which allows him more freedom to again photograph and exhibit for artistic expression.

Primarily self-taught, Patrick has received specialised training in the US from New York Institute of Photography, Winona International School of Photography (Chicago & Atlanta) and Maine Photographic Institute. His broad range of clients includes local companies such as the Bank of Butterfield, Hyatt Regency and the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism along side international projects for National Geographic, Merrill Lynch and Heineken, among others.

Patrick has received several professional awards internationally but was especially honoured to have been awarded the Cayman National Cultural Foundation Artistic Achievement Award in 1999. He has always encouraged novices and freely shares his knowledge. Currently, under the initiative of the National Gallery, he is teaching photography at the Community College of the Cayman Islands. He volunteers as curator of photography at the National Gallery and as a director of the Cayman National Cultural Foundation.

The director of the National Gallery, Mrs Leslie Bigelman, comments "The National Gallery is so pleased to be able to start this Quincentennial Year with an exhibition by a Caymanian photographer whose work focuses on the beauty of our past. Although the photographs are somewhat nostalgic, they also acknowledge the accelerated development in these islands."

Time People Forgot runs from 4 to 31 January at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands. For information and to book school trips call the gallery at 945-8111.



Photographer Patrick Broderick stands in front of the National Gallery where his 'Time People Forgot' exhibit is being held.

Photo: Justin Uzzell