



Curatorial Statement

Dos Visiones/Two Visions

The Cayman Islands and Cuba share a rich cultural heritage, as men from both countries fished and turtled together for over 300 years in the waters that separate the two landmasses. The archipelago that makes up Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman continues 140 miles to the Isle of Pines (Isle of Youth) in Cuba where many Caymanians settled. The people from both of these island countries in the Caribbean Sea are unique. For this exhibition, the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands challenged photographers Roberto Salas from Cuba and Patrick Broderick from Grand Cayman to explore each other's homelands and help us each to better understand our neighbours. Our countries as so close, yet we know so little about each other — an oversight which *Dos Visiones/Two Visions* sought to remedy. Through the unifying force of artistic collaboration, this exhibition began a historical and educational process that continues to this day.

In the words of Roberto Salas: "The Cayman Islands are merely small dots that, day by day, are changing. What was yesterday is not today, nor is it what it will be tomorrow. Caymanian traditions, architecture, and people are becoming legends and memories. Facing this truth, I undertook the task of photographing what I saw as uniquely Caymanian because surely these islands could not be what my first impression was, merely a vacation wonderland of tee shirts and burgers, indistinguishable from all the other islands in the Caribbean.

As I explored with my camera, I found the real beauty and uniqueness of the Cayman Islands lies in its open, friendly people, the happy children and the simple, tranquil life undisturbed by the economic boom of the cruise ship economy. I photographed these kind and gentle people, surrounded by the turtle shell, the mangroves, and the ironshore: the textures of their lives. They are a proud people who tell stories of a land that bears little fruit and of their 'other harvest', one that does not rain or attention — the sea and all it gives to them."