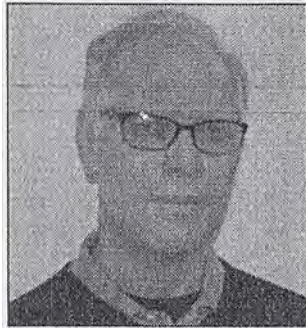


The sounds of beauty

Bendel Hydes' solo exhibition *Soundings*, sponsored by the Quincentennial Committee and its partners, encompasses the work of this New York based Caymanian artist through the years 1989 to 2001. The 28 works are mainly large-scale oil paintings on canvas and smaller mixed media works on prepared paper.

According to a National Gallery press release, the works in *Soundings* were carefully selected from research the National Gallery carried out over a period of 15 months on the artist's work in both private and public



Bendel Hydes

collections in the Cayman Islands.

After creating a photographic database of much of the artist's work from the launch of his career as a young man in the later 1960's until the present day, the curator Nancy Barnard decided to

focus on what she felt to be the most powerful era of his work, in essence of the past decade.

"In this past decade it is evident through his work that Bendel Hydes is a highly sensitive artist who accurately intellectualises life in much the same way as his forefathers of the Cayman Islands would have fathomed the sea: testing, searching, and with great skill sounding the very depths of what is presented, in order to assume the best course," the release states.

Hydes' paintings, the release continues, are an extension of this

indefatigably honest and insightful probing, especially with regards to the lure of his Caribbean background, his struggle to both understand and be understood in its present-day context, and the absorption of his adopted New York culture.

The exhibition opens Saturday, 11 October at 6pm at the National Gallery, Harbour Place on South Church Street in George Town. The National Gallery will also have related events during Bendel Hydes' time in Grand Cayman including a workshop and a dinner-lecture both led by the artist.