

*Forces of Nature (2004)—
Artists' Statements*

Lucy Best

Originally from the UK and Australia, Lucy Best has been living in the Cayman Islands for over five years. Married to a Caymanian, Lucy has embraced local culture and continues to learn about Cayman's heritage and natural environment. She has been a keen amateur photographer for many years but took the plunge to turn professional in 2002 when she began working with David Wolfe Photography. Her passion for photography originally found expression in nature and landscape but through her career she has developed a talent for, and love of, portraiture.

Lucy has exhibited in several local exhibitions and has represented the Cayman Islands at both the Dominican Republic Biennial in 2003 and Carifesta 2003.

Artist's Statement:

The title 'Forces of Nature' conjured up many concepts for me. The ones I have chosen to explore for the exhibition are based around the word "Force". Primarily how nature can be forced to change and how nature itself can be forceful. There are also sub themes evident that explore different types of "nature", from human nature to mother nature.

Siobhan McKenna-Timms

Born and bred in South Africa, Siobhan has travelled for most of her adult life, living in a number of different countries. She works predominantly in black and white photography using light and shadow to provide the observer with the key to meaning. She deliberately chooses the integrity and technical discipline of the darkroom over the freedom of digital photography.

Artist's Statement:

“ 'Nature is the art of God'* and the human condition is his canvas. Passion and Parenthood is a distillation of the essence of life.” *Thomas Browne

Aston Ebanks

Aston Ebanks was born in Kingston, Jamaica, to Margaret and Truman Ebanks, moving to the Cayman Islands at an early age. After studying in the Islands Aston developed a keen interest in photography and has been working with the medium for several years between Grand Cayman and his adopted home of Switzerland. Aston sees his work as much as a necessity as a creative outlet especially in recent

years with changes occurring around us at such a fast pace, “there is no way we can commit everything from the past to memory.”

Artist’s Statement:

“Forces of Nature allowed me to explore aspects of human nature that we take for granted without really recognising them for what they are, forces that we are often powerless against – passion, anger etc. Working on this exhibit also served to remind me that freedom is relative and that none of us are truly free.”

Justin Uzzell

Nassau born Justin Uzzell has lived in Cayman for the majority of his life and considers it home. His early affinity with the surrounding ocean led to a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of London, soon after which he returned to the islands where he remains active involved with the Marine Conservation Board as a Fisheries Officer. Justin has spent the ten years of his professional life at Cayman Free Press where he discovered photography. While he typically covers news stories, new publications like *Inside Out*, Cayman’s Home and Living magazine, have provided an outlet for his more creative work. Fine art photography has been his area of special interest for the past three years. Justin represented the Cayman Islands at Carifesta 2003, and he serves regularly on local exhibition juries.

Artist’s Statement:

Force: an influence tending to change the motion of a body or produce motion or stress in a stationary body.

Nature: the phenomena of the physical world collectively, including plants, animals and the landscape, as opposed to humans or human creations * the physical force regarded as causing and regulating these phenomena.

Such a diverse category as "Forces of Nature" should have created a multitude of thoughts and emotions and the manifestation of such into physical expression. Yet, when absorbing the different meanings submerged in the definitions above, there was an underlying current pulling at my subconscious, guiding my thoughts through a mental thermocline and into conscious realization. As random thoughts surfaced the one connecting element was water, the force of nature which has influenced and steered my life.

Each photograph represents a time in my life, some of major significance, others just flotsam and jetsam left behind as markers of times past. Yet, in each, there is a connecting bond, not just the bond between hydrogen and oxygen, but also the bond that connects life's navigation with this photographer: Water.

Water is my solution.

Tytia Habing

Tytia Habing was born in a small farming town in Illinois, USA, and has lived in the Cayman Islands for seven years. Habing has university degrees in horticulture and landscape architecture. This amateur photographer, who is self taught, is passionate about her work and spends large amounts of her time shooting the surrounding landscape. She is very interested in the play of natural light on her subjects and feels that something ordinary can be transformed, by light, into something beautiful. She does not consider herself to be a technical photographer and often will go out shooting and hope to get something remarkable. Habing exhibited in several local exhibitions and has represented the Cayman Islands at both the Dominican Republic Biennial

Artist's Statement:

"I believe beauty is a powerful force of nature. Beauty in nature has the ability to calm the soul and bring peace of mind. As a child I would spend most of my time outdoors picking wildflowers and wandering in the woods. Even as an adult I like to spend as much of my time outdoors as possible. The objects in my photos are a result of these walks, I have collected them from the beach and gardens around my home."