



Curatorial Statement

Emergence

Art has powerful therapeutic and transformative qualities and in the wake of disasters and social upheavals it is often used as a way of attempting to understand what has taken place and to further the process of recovery. As a cultural centre whose mission is to promote and protect the visual arts in the Cayman Islands, we felt that we could best serve the recovery process by providing a venue for people to express their reactions and subsequently by promoting healing through creative expression.

38 creative artists from various disciplines as well as public relations, entertainment and marketing have mobilized to create 'Emergence', an exhibition that literally presents art out of rubble. Each artist has worked with recycled materials and found objects that have lost their everyday use as a result of Ivan's wrath, personal items, that still retain emotional value or items found around the island that have been distorted by nature.

Several issues emerge from the juxtaposition of works by these artists: the challenge of rendering a visual reaction to recent events; the exposing of private loss; and the tension between engaging in what is immediately relevant and what's more universal.

It is our hope that this exhibition will be a source of inspiration both for the exhibiting artists and for the larger community, whether through the powerful images by David Wolfe and Courtney Platt, which have captured the strength, dedication and perseverance needed re-build and restore Cayman, or in the diverse assemblage sculptures. It is our art community's response to the darkest hours in our recent history and the courage it has required to prevail beyond it.

Natalie Coleman
Curator