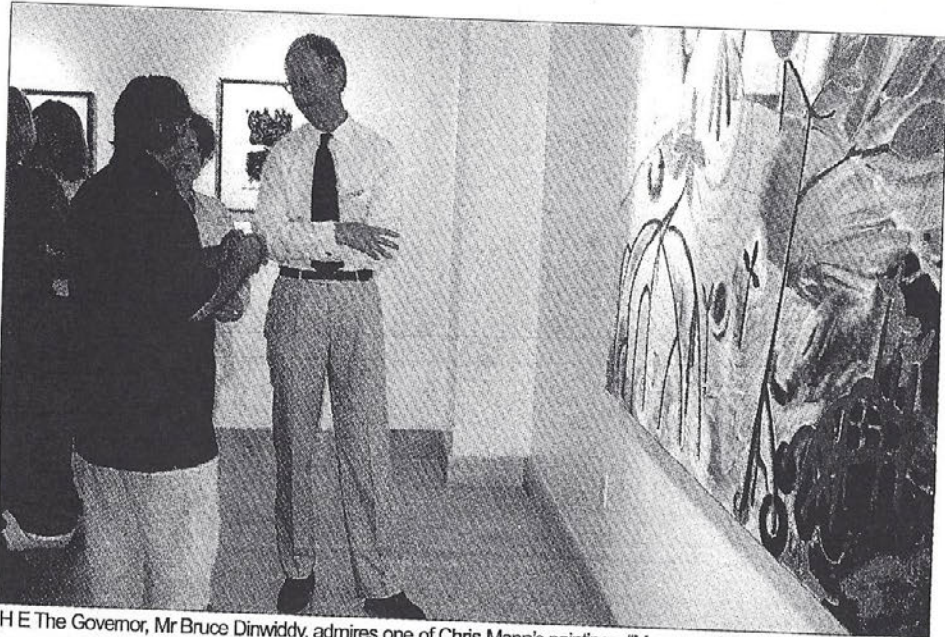
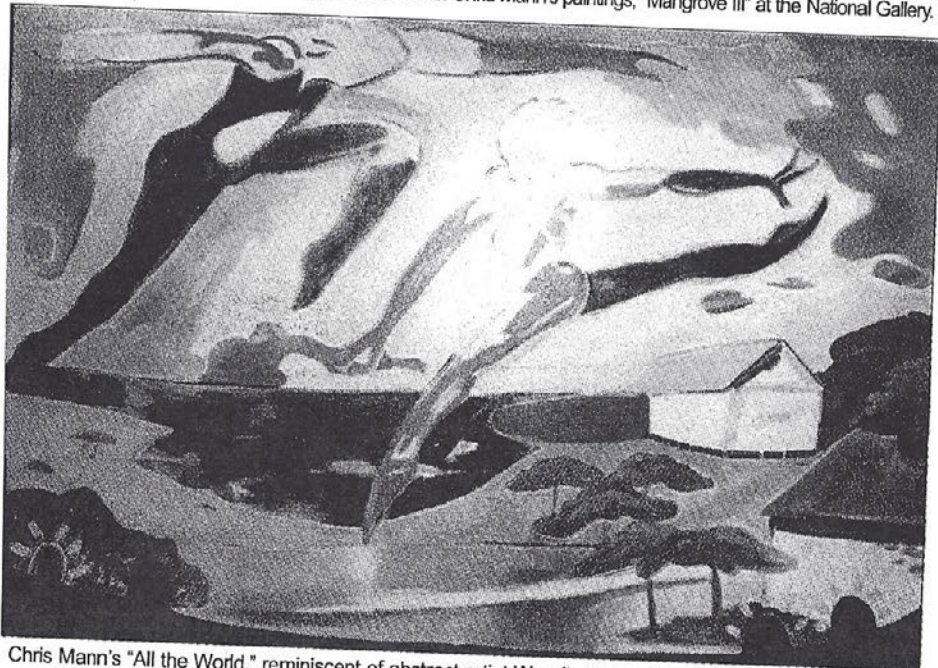


Two men anchored in landscapes:



H E The Governor, Mr Bruce Dinwiddy, admires one of Chris Mann's paintings, "Mangrove III" at the National Gallery.



Chris Mann's "All the World," reminiscent of abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky's use of form and colour.

By Christopher Tobutt

A new exhibition opened at the National Gallery on Thursday 17 February. 'Anchored in Landscapes' explores the ways in which local artists David Bridgeman and Chris Mann look at landscape painting. The exhibition explores the themes of identity, nationality and transformation, through the medium of paintings, collages and drawings.

Since both artists came here from the United Kingdom in the late 1980's, Anchored in Landscapes is partly an investigation of establishing roots in a new country, and shows the way that somebody from outside the culture will see things differently, and shed new light on familiar things.

Both artists explore the tension between the landscape and the individual within that landscape, and the paintings are an exploration of emotions, feelings and cultural associations landscapes evoke.

"Figures, of myself or other people are pivotal in the interpretation of landscapes," Mr Bridgeman says, in his 'Artist's Statement.'

One of Mr Bridgeman's paintings, "1.1 Mile," is therefore really a jumbled collection of images that come to mind after thinking about a journey, in this case the 1.1 mile between the artists house and his studio in West Bay. There is no spatial sense in the painting, no start or finish, rather, the images seem to revolve, as if the observer is a child looking through a cut glass ornament.

Mr Bridgeman arrived in The

Cayman Islands in 1987 when he came into contact with other artists and felt inspired to begin painting. Since then he has attended workshops by artists such as Bendel Hydes; Jerry Craig from Jamaica and Isaiah Boodhoo from Trinidad, his technique being influenced by each one.

Mr Bridgeman often works in oils, but his pictures also incorporate materials such as photocopied newsprint to form exciting and original collages. He also uses monoprint techniques, and develops several different pictures from one monoprint.

Some of his work has been described as austere and aggressive, and has been likened to the German Expressionists of the 20's and 30's.

The exhibition's other artist, Chris Mann, studied drawing, painting and printmaking at Goldsmith's College in London, before specializing in ceramics and sculpture. Following college, Mr Mann taught in several schools in London before coming to the Cayman Islands in 1987, where he was appointed head of the Art Department at George Hicks High School.

Mr Mann's work has been described as "Challenging Prejudice," and by creating symbols and motifs in his pictures, Mr Mann attempts to represent abstract ideas and emotions.

"Landscapes have always been a fascination for me. When you are in an interesting landscape, you respond to it and feel part of it for a

“The act of painting is like a journey”

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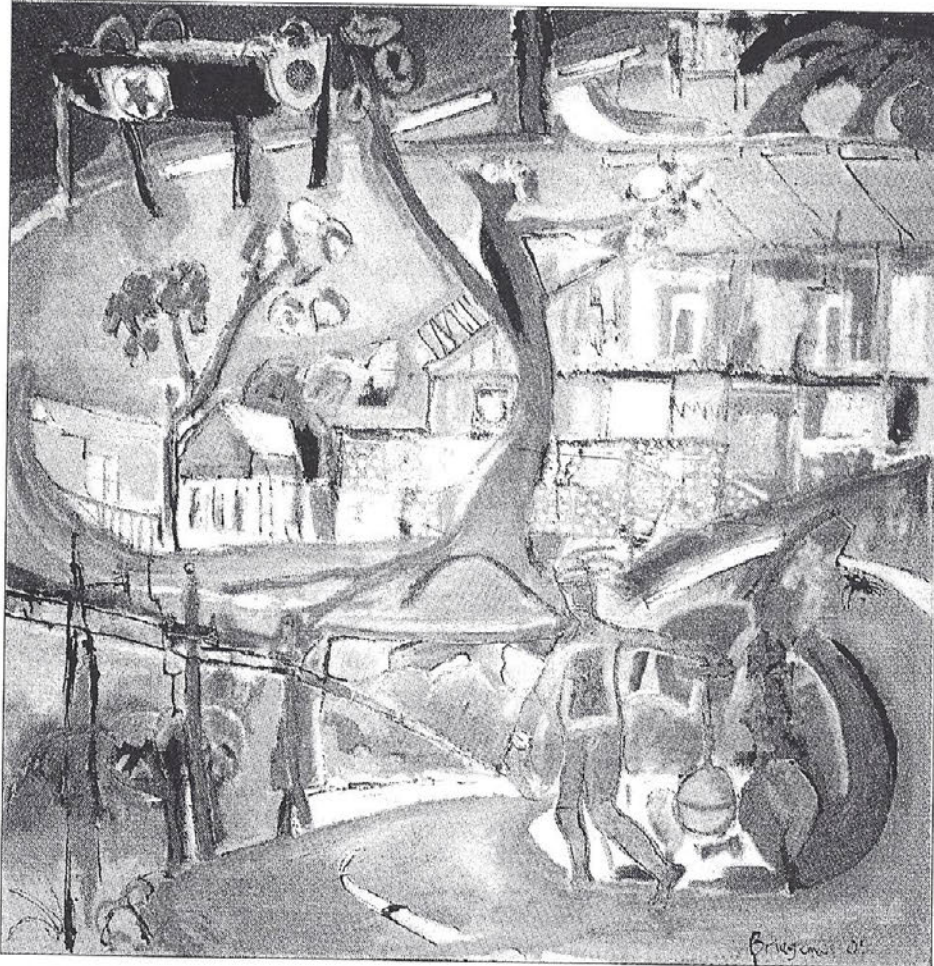
time,” he said in his ‘Artist’s Statement.’

“When I make a painting it is an emotional and physical journey. I am creating a kind of landscape, separate from the image. The act of painting is like the a journey across the surface of the canvas.”

Mr Mann and Mr Bridgeman have

produced something tangible, their pictures, from something intangible. An anchor is a physical link, and both artists have succeeded in creating an anchor that connects the artist, the landscape, and the emotions that a landscape evokes.

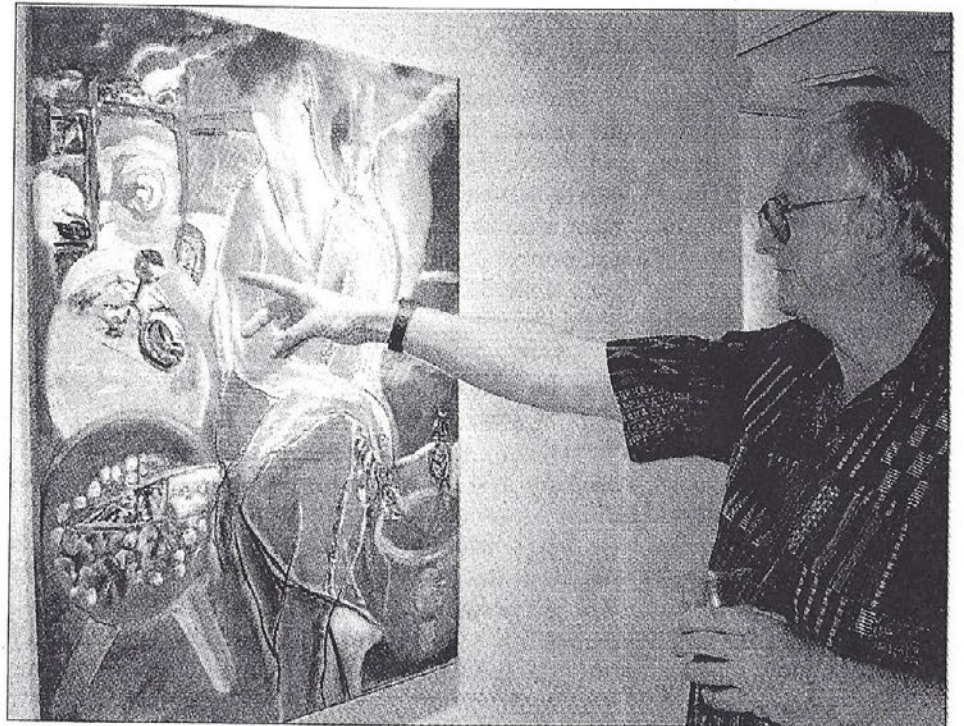
Anchored In Landscapes will be on view at the National Gallery until 24 March.



One of David Bridgeman's paintings, "1.1 mile."



The two artists, David Bridgeman and Chris Mann, stand side-by-side.



Artist Charles Long remarks on David Bridgeman's technique at the 'Anchored in Landscapes' exhibition.