



## **Curatorial Statement**

### ***Watermarks***

This exhibition pays tribute to the beauty of our natural environment through the work of the Cayman Islands' most renowned watercolourists. For many, watercolour has become synonymous with the early development of the visual arts in the Cayman Islands. An art form which, though difficult to execute with precision, once mastered perfectly captures the vibrant surroundings of the Caymanian landscape.

Each of the artists represented have consistently demonstrated a broad range of visual expression and the technical competence over the years. Their work is a celebration of the visual world, one of colour and tone, light and shadow, captured through the depiction of vibrant flora or through the quiet revelation of light on water. Through the power of sustained observation, of focused attention to the world around them astutely transcribed and transformed, they show us our surroundings in a more ample and generous light.

This past year we've experienced the temporary loss of these vibrant surroundings and with that loss comes a deepened sense of disintegration. Many precious watercolours from private and public collections were also destroyed during Hurricane Ivan and with them some of our visual heritage. Through this exhibition we hope to create a new collection that will be held in trust for the people of the Cayman Islands – a collection that will serve as a powerful reminder of Cayman's natural beauty and of all that art can give us in a world struggling to rebuild itself.

Natalie Coleman, Curator