



'är"klv ("ARCHIVE"):

Paintings by Allison Lasley

4 May – 25 August 2006

There were no warnings that Allison Lasley would die suddenly of cancer, and yet she painstakingly created her own artistic archive of the world around her, her impressions and personal experiences, as if each moment was the most precious. This archive took the form of a series of small square watercolours of standard size, almost like cards in a rolodex, which may have incorporated cuttings, clippings, and other materials embedded in layers of paint, plaster, and wax. In 1997, Allison Lasley spent time as a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome, where she produced her *Rome Journals*. Later, over a five-year period, she spent time in the Cayman Islands where she created her *Cayman Series*, comprising several hundred pieces which capture the intense light and sun-bleached hues of the Caribbean and its vivid sounds and smells: an aquamarine square of the ocean, a Carib bottle top, the bill from a restaurant, the orange of a Poinciana tree. When displayed, Lasley's string of impressions and records appears as a lively mosaic of images, each one of them contrasting or echoing others. A large part of her oeuvre was exhibited at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands from May to August 2006 and artworks were sold to benefit the Cayman Islands Cancer Society.

Emérentienne Paschalides, Curator