



## **Curatorial Statement**

### ***au courant***

*au courant* is an exhibition of works by a select group of international, contemporary artists. Combining ten artists of vastly different backgrounds working in varied settings around the globe, including the Cayman Islands, the exhibition served to both further develop an appreciation for contemporary art in our Islands, and to inspire the community of artists and residents of the Cayman Islands.

The works of these ten artists — Carlos Betancourt, Glexis Novoa, Aston Ebanks, Peter Sarkisian, Raymond Saa, John Salvest, Bendel Hydes, Teresa Diehl, Kianga Ford and Satoshi Ohno — were simply my favourites gleaned from years of research and exposure both in the Cayman Islands, and at the international art shows Art Basel and Art Miami. Some are fledgling artists, other are well established, all are artist who make strong, confident yet sensitive statements with their work; all are artists to watch.

The artwork in *au courant* will likely question, reflect, puzzle, challenge, provoke, amuse, mystify, lose and then find its viewers. You, the viewers, are encouraged to become users to really use the art and the gallery spaces to sample what is *au courant* onto your own lives, daily conversations, and creative work.

My warmest appreciation to Coutts (Cayman) Ltd, sponsors of this exhibition and long-time benefactors of the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands, and to supporters Marriott Grand Cayman and Cico-Avis of Grand Cayman.

Nancy Barnard, Curator