



NG

CAYMAN ISLANDS

**NATIONAL
GALLERY**

aston ebanks, carlos betancourt, glexis nova, john salvest, kianga ford
meter sarkisian, raymond saá, teresa diehl, satoshi ohno, and **bendel hydes**

exhibition of avant-garde **contemporary international art**



au courant

13/10/06 - 25/01/07

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'au courant promises to be another fantastic exhibition and we at Coutts encourage everyone to see it.'



Coutts has a long history of supporting the arts both locally and internationally and is proud of the continued support it provides the National Gallery.

Through corporate sponsorship the Gallery is able to bring cutting edge artwork to the Cayman Islands. 'au courant' promises to be another fantastic exhibition and we at Coutts encourage everyone to see it.

David Neuschaffer
Managing Director
Coutts (Cayman) Limited

au courant is an exhibition of works of selected leading, avant garde international artists. The exhibition combines ten artists of vastly different backgrounds working in varied settings around the globe, including the Cayman Islands, to serve to both further develop an appreciation for contemporary art in particular installation, assemblage, and conceptual 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 Saá, 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, others are well established, all are artists 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



REAL TIME (SAMOTRACIA, KIM IL SUNG, KOUROS & LADY OF LIBERTY) 2006
Site-specific graphite drawing on marble extended in to the wall, dimension variable (marble, 12" x 12")

'The drawings that I make in graphite on marble employ a command of Renaissance perspective space, dominated by a horizon line and an equally relentless vanishing point. The absence of human figures in my work encourages the spectator to virtually identify with the camera's point of view and ask: what does it survey? I invite my viewer to consider how are these new technologies instrumentalized towards opposing ends serving as both vehicles of knowledge and social power? Does surveillance secure safety or a police state? Only the law can give us the answers.'

Glexis Novoa

Cuban-born Glexis Novoa (b. 1964) has resided in Miami since 1995 and is known for meticulously rendered graphite landscapes that focus not on the natural world but on the built environment. Novoa's fantastic realism is informed by a range of visual "realities" including Renaissance perspective, 17th century Dutch landscapes, and 21st-century digital morphing. What emerges is a drawing that transports us to a time and space where the worlds of direct observation, memory, technological advances, and apocalyptic fiction collapse into a truly hybrid image.



"This installation, "garden," is a meeting point for those ambivalent elements. A garden is a unique place that is built through the will of nature and man together. No matter how hard man attempts to control gardens, they grow by themselves beyond human control. I am deeply interested in what will happen to interaction between man and nature. This interest closely links to the reason why I draw self-portraits. I never face nature without having some feeling of how small I am. Even though I can see and feel a beautiful nature, I can never live like nature and accept everything that happens to me as nature does. This absolute difference defines humans and is materialized in my "self-portraits."

Satoshi Ohno

Satoshi Ohno was born in Gifu, Japan. He received his BA from the Tokyo Zokei University in 2004, and began working towards his MA in 2005 at the same institution. His solo exhibition to date has been Acid Garden at the Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo in 2006. Group exhibitions include 2004's "Koshikijima Art Project", Kagoshima, Japan; 2005's "PRAHA project", Sapporo, Japan; and 2006's "WORM HOLE", magical ARTROOM, Tokyo.

ACID GARDEN 2006
Installation
Paper, paint, felt, wood,
found materials
Dimensions variable

Courtesy of the Tomio Koyama Gallery, 1-3-2-7F Kiyosumi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0024
81-3-3642-4090 www.tomiokoyamagallery.com



STARPATH 2006
Installation
Dimensions variable

"STARPATH, is an environmental work that uses nature and the environment as a vehicle for metaphor and creativity. The work focuses on the dynamic interplay that recognizes change and constancy as the underpinnings of the creative process, thereby leading to a blossoming of the imagination.

The work focuses on three parameters of contemporary thinking: the nature of anthropocentric activity as it relates to Grand Cayman, the use of nature and the environment as a general vehicle for metaphor and creativity, and the choice of materials as mediums of aesthetic investigation and discourse. If it is perceived that the unflinching twist of the imagination will give rise to new and defining relationships between already existing elements such as air,

water and land, then it is understood that the nature of these compacted stars aim to question the formal and the transitory along with the fluid matrix of the environment both as a conduit of artifice and of contemplation. The idea is to produce a work that awakens the spirit.

Starpath is made using natural beach materials such as pine needles and turtle grass and was first created along the beach around the head of Barkers at Barkers National Park, in West Bay, Grand Cayman in July 2004."

Bendel Hydes

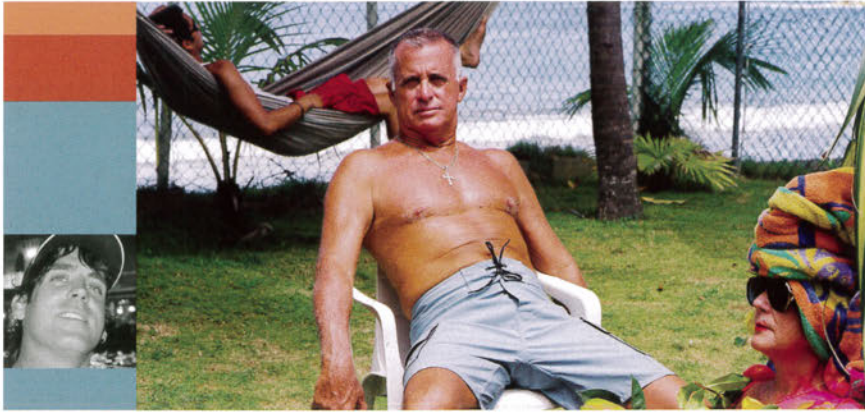
Born in 1952 in the Cayman Islands, Bendel Hydes studied at Clark University in Massachusetts, USA and at the Canterbury College of Art and Liverpool College of Art in England. He received his B.A. in International Relations and Philosophy. Hydes has held

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several solo exhibitions and participated in several international group exhibitions, including the XXX International Festival of Painting at the Museum of cagnes-sur-Mur, France; the 23rd International Bienalle de Sao Paulo in 1996; and Caribbean Visions: Contemporary Painting and Sculpture. Works by the artist are in the collections of UBS, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, as well as numerous private collections internationally.

Hydes has received several grants and prizes including a Pollack-Krasner Foundation Grant in 2002, Award of Excellence from the Cayman National Cultural Foundation in 1996, and Dr. Maury Leibovitz Art Award 1985.

The artist has lived and worked in New York since 1982.



'Man attempts at recreating natural environments in a sometimes artificially controlled setting currently fuels my artwork as I continue to explore the ephemeral contacts between man, art and nature, in a communion that cannot be separated. My color compositions, (intuitive, spontaneous and researched simultaneously), are occasionally loaded with multiple layers of meaning that may be wrapped in ritualistic and primordial mysteries, generating moments of reflection. Ultimately, the artwork may be liberated of the polemics of reason and attractive under the realms of its secrets.'

Carlos Betancourt

Carlos Betancourt was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His artwork is part of public collections such as the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Betancourt's artwork has been included in multiple solo and group exhibits as well as art fairs such as Art Basel and Arco. He is the recipient of numerous awards and grants, such as the Florida Department of State Millennium Cultural Recognition Award. Recently, Betancourt has been awarded commissions to create monumental artworks for the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Trust. The artist lives in Miami.

**FAMILY PORTRAIT:
MAMI, PAPI AND
ALBERTO** 2005
Metallic lambda print
48x48"
(Edition of 3, 1 a/p) 2/3

Courtesy of Diana Lowenstein Fine Arts, 2043 N Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33127
(305) 576-1804 www.dlfinearts.com



**THE COMPLEX
SO. CAL. MULTI-4** 2005
Mixed media installation
Dimensions variable

Working with sound and environment as primary media, Kianga Ford's narrative experiments query the psycho-physical dimensions of social identity formation. Her immersive, often story-based, installations engage the viewer in a participatory exploration of the limits between individual and collective, intimate and public, given and contingent, categorical and particular.

Kianga Ford has worked collaboratively with a range of international composers from Toronto to Berlin as well as recently with the Frankfurt-based Forsythe Company. Her work has been shown at venues including The Museum of

Contemporary Art, Miami, and The Brooklyn Institute for Contemporary Art. Her recent solo shows include presentations of new work at Lisa Dent Gallery, San Francisco and Occidental College, Los Angeles. Her explorations with narrative are informed by her studies in English and Theater at Georgetown University, where she received her BA in 1994, and post-graduate work in film at NYU. Ford received her MFA in 2003 from UCLA, where she studied with Mary Kelly in the Interdisciplinary Studio program. She lives and works in Los Angeles and Boston.

Courtesy of the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, 3550 N. Miami Ave, Miami, FL 33127
(305) 573-2700 www.bernicesteinbaumgallery.com



'My work tries to show the experience of amalgamated living within an urban multi cultural city such as New York and the shared and secret spaces that different cultures inhabit. My approach is from a first generation American's point of view. Raised by my exiled family, I experienced their feelings of displacement. My own came from a space in constant conflict, between the survival of their heritage and my experiences outside of the family. The tropical floral imagery I use reveals a sometimes menacing feel that describes some of the dichotomy in the experience of immigrants living in America - the promised opportunities versus the confusion of a new and competitive culture, and the hitherto unrecognized strength of the now forsaken culture of one's home country.'

Raymond Saá

Raymond Saá has an M.F.A. from Parsons School of Design, and also attended Kunstakademie, in Germany, and the Maryland Institute College of Art. Saá has had several solo and group exhibitions including Ambrosino Gallery, Miami; El Museo del Barrio, New York, in 2005; and Luxe Gallery, New York, NY. Saá received a National Endowment for the Arts Teaching Fellowship in 2004 and 2005; and a grant from the Pollock Krasner Foundation in 1998.

UNTITLED 2005
Collage, acrylic and charcoal on wood
78 x 48"

Courtesy of Ambrosino Gallery, 769-771 NE 125th Street, North Miami, FL 33161
(305) 891-5577 www.ambrosinogallery.com



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER... IGNORANCE IS BLISS 2005
Wooden school desk and chairs, #2 pencils
36 x 30 x 20"

"Knowledge is power" versus "ignorance is bliss." The pair of platitudes contained in this well-worn school desk remain in eternal tension.

John Salvest

John Salvest received a B.A. in English from Duke University and an M.A. in English literature and an M.F.A. in sculpture from the University of Iowa. His mixed-media objects and installations have been presented in solo and group shows throughout the United States, including one-person exhibitions at Phoenix Art Museum, AZ; New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY; Forum for Contemporary Art, St.

Louis, MO; Salina Art Center, KS; Cheekwood Museum of Art, Nashville, TN and Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock. His work has been recognized with numerous awards and grants including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1993 and a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in 1998. Salvest recently completed a public art project for the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in Memphis and is currently working on a project for Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta, GA. The artist lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas, where he is Professor of Sculpture at Arkansas State University.

Courtesy of the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, 3550 N. Miami Ave, Miami, FL 33127
(305) 573-2700 www.bernicesteinbaumgallery.com



'The course of change is only difficult if we embark on it unprepared.'

Aston Ebanks

Aston Ebanks was born in Jamaica in 1974, and grew up in the Cayman Islands. He moved to Switzerland in 1997 where photography became a passionate hobby. Aston spent the next seven years moving between the island and his new home, Switzerland, teaching himself the art form, and refining his talent whilst defining himself.

Ebanks' joint exhibitions have included 'Forces of Nature', 'Body Talk' and 'Portrait of an Artist' all in 2004 at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands. Prizes have included a commendation in 'Fine

Craft' at the 2004 McCoy Prize exhibition, and top prize in the 'Fine Art' in 2005. In August of 2005 the artist organised the event, 'Applied Art' where invited artist and interested bystanders participated in creating large scale paintings on full sheets of plywood. In 2006 Ebanks curated 'Generation Next' at the National Museum of the Cayman Islands. The artist works hard to subtly redefine what has come to be known and accepted as "Caymanian Art" and the Caymanian aesthetic and is currently preparing for his public art piece 'The Maze' which will be constructed out of discarded shipping pallets. More than an installation the Maze will double as an exhibition space featuring video, sound and light installations.

TRANSMISSIONS 2006
(Stills from the work)
Video

Contact: P.O. Box 31878 Grand Cayman KY1 1208, Cayman Islands, W.I
(345) 925-5688 www.filtered.ch



PUDDLE 2006
DVD player, projector, resin puddle, DVD player, projector, stainless steel bucket, black cloth, single channel DVD with audio

BUCKET 2006
single channel DVD w/ audio
Dimensions variable
Approx. 18x10"

Puddle is a small installation featuring a smooth resin puddle onto which the image of dripping liquid is projected. When viewing the puddle, it appears to consist of colored water that has gathered as a result of this leakage. The sound of dripping accompanies the image.

Bucket is a small installation involving a smooth resin surface set within a stainless steel pail. The image of boiling liquid is projected against the resin inset as though bubbles are rising from below the surface. The gurgling bubbles imply that liquid turbulence must, by deduction, originate within the pail, that is, it must find origin at a point below the image plane. This triggers a conflict of observation, a paradox which heightens the viewer's sense of awareness in relation to the image, causing them to ask the most fundamental question: "what is the experience I'm having at this moment?"

Peter Sarkisian

Peter Sarkisian was born in Glendale, California in 1965, and in 1972, he moved to Cerrillos, New Mexico. From 1984-85, he studied photography and film at the California Institute of the Arts, and from 1988-89 he studied as a Directing Fellow at The American Film Institute in Los Angeles. The artist lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Courtesy of the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, 3550 N. Miami Ave, Miami, FL 33127
(305) 573-2700 www.bernicesteinbaumgallery.com



As a child I loved to keep myself awake at night by thinking "forever and ever and ever and ever and..." or telling myself ghost stories, or reading mysterious poems. Scaring myself on purpose made me feel alive, like being on the most terrifying ride at the fair. While you're riding high, you scream and wish it would stop, but afterward you remember it as the best thing you have ever felt, the stars coming close, then the ground swooping up to meet you.

Teresa Diehl

Teresa Michel Harb Diehl was born in Tanurin, Lebanon in 1961, and has been a US citizen since 2000. She was educated at Miami Dade Community College where she earned her A.A., then at Florida International University where she earned her B.F.A. She earned her M.F.A. at San Francisco Art Institute. She has exhibited in many art galleries, including The Photo Gallery at Florida International University and The Oklahoma Art Museum.

THE RETURN OF PLEASURE 2006
(STILL FROM THE WORK)
White plexi glass house,
two mini dvd players,
two single channel dvd's
with audio (mixed media)
24 x 24 x 24"

"It began in mystery, and it will end in mystery,
but what a savage and beautiful country lies in between."

Diane Ackerman

au courant

nationalgallery.org.ky



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