



JANET WALKER

A RETROSPECTIVE

September 3rd - November 17th, 2010

The National Gallery
of the Cayman Islands


**NATIONAL
GALLERY**
CAYMAN ISLANDS


1970 • 2010
**40 YEARS
OF EXCELLENCE**

Sponsor's Welcome

"This year, as Caledonian celebrates our 40 Year Anniversary, we are especially proud to partner with the National Gallery for this exhibition, as Janet Walker is a member of our corporate family. We are thrilled that her vibrant and innovative creations will be on display together for the very first time. The exhibit offers local art patrons and visitors from around the world, the opportunity to experience a truly cultural marvel."

Caledonian Group



Curators' Statement

"For over thirty years Janet Walker has travelled around the Cayman Islands painting some of our most beloved views - from dramatic seascapes and lush tropical landscapes to the iconic architecture found in each district. Her work is born out of a deep personal affiliation with nature and the desire to portray the true character of "the islands time forgot".

Working outdoors and predominantly in watercolour, Janet skillfully captures the play of light and shade that is so unique to Cayman. Her paintings dance with vibrancy and atmosphere.

Seen together for the first time, this beautiful collection pays homage to both our cultural heritage and our natural environment. It is a record of much that has been lost and a reminder of the fragile balance that we must strive to maintain."

Natalie Urquhart and David Bridgeman

Artist's Biography

A longstanding member of the Cayman Islands arts community, Janet trained at the Ontario College of Art before moving to Cayman in 1963 with her husband the late William Walker. A world away from her Canadian heritage, the unique colour and landscape inspired a whole new approach to her work. She soon traded oil paint for watercolours and began painting outdoors in order to authentically capture Cayman's rapidly changing light.



Janet began painting in earnest after her children went off to school and became an early member of the Visual Arts Society where she painted with artists like Ruth Harvey and Betty Wise. She fondly remembers many an afternoon at English Point where the group met regularly at the home of Margaret Barwick.

Later she became friendly with fellow Canadians Joanne and Jeremy Sibley and the trio would meet regularly to paint together, sometimes as much as five times a week. Work would be done outside battling the elements - on the road or the beach and even in people's yards. This was the start of her most prolific period to date.

In the years since Janet has travelled frequently around all three islands painting some of Cayman's most cherished scenes. Her subjects include the spectacular and ever-changing seascapes, the vibrant landscapes, and the iconic Caymanian architecture found in each district. Many of these works now reside in public and private collections in the Cayman Islands and abroad.

Janet paints primarily for the sheer enjoyment of the process and a deep affinity to nature. She hopes that the play of light and shade, the

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way a shadow falls, or the choice of colours, captures some of what inspired her.

Over the passage of time many of her subjects have disappeared, lost to development or ravaged by hurricanes. Many the paintings on display in this exhibition have become records of places and landscapes that simply no longer exist.

The artist in her own words...

"When I first saw the Cayman Islands in November 1963 I knew I would love living here. I fell in love with the island at first sight and am still amazed every day at the beauty all around us. The landscape and seascapes, the light and colour, the old Caymanian architecture with its pleasing proportions, and the joy of painting outside and meeting all sorts of people, are what inspired me to paint here. To wake up every morning with the sun rising over the sea is an amazing thing and the quality of the light as the day progresses is always fascinating.

I enjoy the challenge of painting outside with the wind blowing, the paint splashing and people stopping to see what you are doing. Sometimes the easel and painting will go flying. It creates a lot of "accidents" and occasionally they work. I paint quickly probably because you only have a short time to capture whatever it is you are painting before the light changes or the sun gets too hot and the paper dries in the middle of a wash, and you start thinking about a nice cool swim.

I think you have to feel passionate about what you are painting and though I have not usually started out to make any kind of statement, many of my subjects serve as reminders of how rapidly our environment has changed. I am disappointed that there are still no laws or development plans to protect the unique natural environment and architecture of Cayman. Many of the scenes are simply no longer there. I would like to see a pride and appreciation of what is uniquely Caymanian and the courage to look at the long term advantages of sustainable development."

Janet Walker

Selected works



Cayman Cottage I. 1981

From the collection of Robert and Marie-Joelle Walker



Old Courts Building. c.1990

From the collection of the Cayman Islands National Museum



Meagre Bay Pond. c. 1990

From the collection of the National Museum

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"Miss Dorothy's". 1997

From the collection of Neil and Lucinda Cruickshank



Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park. 1998

From the collection of Caledonian Group



The Trust House, Little Cayman. 1998

From the collection of Gladys Howard



Boggy Sand Road. 1999

From the collection of the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands
Donated by Appleby



Bodden Town Street. 2010

From the collection of the artist



Storm Brewing in South Sound. 2010

From the collection of the artist

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The National Gallery would like to extend our thanks
to the Caledonian Group for sponsoring this exhibition.

Our thanks also to the following individuals
and companies for loaning artwork:

Appleby

The Cayman Islands National Museum

Bill Christophers

Sydney and Claire Coleman

Neil and Lucinda Cruickshank

Peter Hillenbrand

Gladys Howard

Desmond and Cathy Kinch

Ed and Gay Morse

Alastair and Meg Paterson

Jeremy and Joanne Sibley

Janet Walker

Robert and Marie-Joelle Walker



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