



# Blue Meridian

*A collection of installation works in glass and porcelain  
by Caymanian artist Davin Ebanks*

November 27th, 2010 - March 4th, 2011

**RBS Coutts**



*This exhibition is an artist's soliloquy on what it means to him to be Caymanian – from his maritime heritage, to his obsession with the water that surrounds his home and in the end, how he fits into it all. With life-sized glass models of our tropical waters to carefully cast turtle skulls and catboat blueprints, the works in this exhibition capture Cayman's heritage in an entirely unique way.*

*These contemporary sculptures (or a description other than 'these works') appear to be slices of tropical water sitting on the gallery floor almost as though the artist has magically removed a sample of water and frozen it in time. His ocean studies are a series of rectangular castings with beautifully polished sides, glassy wind-blown surfaces, and sandy bottoms that reflect the granulated ridges of the marine floor. Each of the luminescent colours captures the varying shades of blue-green water one might see on a sunny day off the shores of our Islands.*

*As a compliment to the clean, almost minimalist nature of the solid glass castings, there are installations like *Death of the Ajax*, a multifarious work that speaks to a significant aspect of Caymanian history. Here, twin wooden panels frame two halves of a blueprint for the *Ajax*, a traditional Cayman Brac catboat used to hunt turtles. Below each half are five cast glass turtle skulls. Given the proximity of both skeletons – the framework of the boat and the skull of the sea turtle – we are left to question the implications behind "death" in the title. Perhaps the artist is both lamenting the passing of this vessel as a particularly Caymanian piece of heritage and the passing of the marine resource, which it was invented to capture. The lack of any satisfying narrative in this work only underscores the sense of loss when a culture fades to memory.*

*In the end, *Blue Meridian* is the culmination of two years' work by Caymanian artist Davin Ebanks - his attempt to translate the history and environment of his home into glass and porcelain.*

## *Artist Biography*

*Davin Ebanks first discovered the malleable magic of glass while pursuing his Bachelor of Arts at Jacksonville University. Today he is a world-class sculptor and artist who works primarily in this medium.*

*Born in Grand Cayman in 1975, Davin spent most of his formative years on the water – the dusk of an epoch fondly referred to as "the Islands time forgot". His love for the sea grew steadily, as did his skills and lore of his seafaring heritage. Appropriately, and not surprisingly then, most of his artistic works explore his personal and cultural island experiences. His most recent inspirations are personified in *Blue Meridian*, an exhibition that is, in essence, an examination of the relationship between identity and environment.*



*Davin's work has been displayed at various venues most notably at *Urban Glass*, New York, where he worked as an instructor; at the United States' Glass Art Society's Annual Conference 2150° Fahrenheit, an invitational show highlighting sculptural glass artists; as a Visiting Artist and an Artist in Residence at his alma mater Anderson University; and as part of the Cayman Islands National Museum's McCoy*

*Prize 2003, for which he won the Fine Craft category for his submission, *Sleeping Sisters*.*

*Davin received a Masters of Fine Art with a concentration in glass sculpture from Kent State University in Ohio earlier this year. He currently works as a temporary Assistant Professor in the university's Glass Department.*

**Blue Meridian*, in many ways, is the personification of his own character's sculpting at that hand of his now-91-year-old grandfather – himself a veteran turtler, shark fisherman, merchant marine and decorated WWII veteran.*

