

## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Founded Upon the Seas Opens at the National Gallery

The National Gallery, in partnership with Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Ltd, launches a new exhibition next week inspired by the maritime heritage of the Cayman Islands. Featuring paintings by artists Miguel Powery, Bendel Hydes, Gordon Solomon, Guy Harvey, John Broad, Randy Chollette, Conroy Ebanks and Christel Ibsen, flanked by first-hand accounts of life at sea from the National Archives' oral history collections, *Founded Upon the Seas* celebrates this remarkable story and the men and vessels at the heart of it.

"The history of our islands is inextricably linked to the sea. This is a story that everyone in Cayman has a connection to, a story of heroism, hardship, adventure, loss and most of all deep faith," says NGCI Director and exhibition curator Natalie Urquhart.

The exhibition and accompanying programme schedule bring together several organizations in Cayman, including the Seafarers Association, the Cayman Islands National Archive (CINA), The National Museum and The Catboat Club. It was very important to the NGCI when creating this exhibition that they collaborated with the many individuals and entities already working to keep this part of Caymanian heritage alive. "There are so many excellent resources on this subject available to the community, many of which are underutilized, says Urquhart. "Our hope is that the exhibition will encourage more interest in this remarkable story and that visitors will visit one the partnering entities to learn more about the subject."

Throughout the three month duration, visitors will be able to view the works of art, experience a photographic exhibition with images from CINA, listen to firsthand accounts of life at sea by members of the Seafarers Association, learn about the history of the Catboat, and enjoy interactive family activities guides based on the maritime theme. In addition, information will be provided on each of the partnering entities and their resources.

Sheree Ebanks, Director & Head of Wealth Management at Butterfield, said "As avid supporters of the arts we are excited and proud to once again partner with the National Gallery and lend our support to such an important exhibition. With much of our history and culture stemming from our maritime past

we look forward to the communities reaction to these local artists unique and diverse works as we look to our seafaring past, present and future in the Cayman Islands.”

*Founded Upon the Seas* opens for public viewing on June 9<sup>th</sup>. For further information on the exhibition and supporting exhibition and programme schedule visit [www.nationalgallery.org.ky](http://www.nationalgallery.org.ky) or call (345) 945 8111.

Caption:

*Once Upon a Time – Legends* by Randy Chollette. From the collection of Desmond and Cathy Kinch

*Coming Home* by Miguel Powery. From the collection of Truman Bodden.

