

The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands

Art of Assemblage

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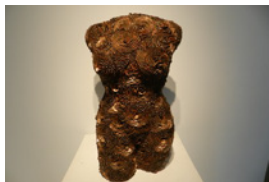
The Art of Assemblage

Assemblage art traces its origin to Pablo Picasso who created his first “assemblage” Guitar out of sheet-metal in 1913, although the term was coined later, in 1953, by French artist Jean Dubuffet. It involves the transformation of found objects and materials into art by combining or constructing techniques such as gluing or welding. In its origin it was a radically new way of making sculpture that turned its back on established carving and casting practices, along with the accepted culture of the time.

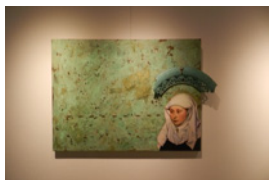
Following in this tradition, the artists featured in Art of Assemblage have sought to champion the often neglected beauty of simple day-to-day objects. What might be disregarded as junk by some has been salvaged and transformed. The sculptures and collages - which are not sculpted in the traditional sense but constructed and weaved - are curious and unpredictable, repetitive and sometimes compulsive. They blur the boundaries between painting and sculpture, value and junk, art and life.



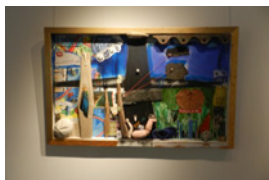
RASITHA SANJEWA MAWANANAHEWA hails from Sri Lanka. In Asia he participated in many group exhibitions, international art camps and held solo exhibitions in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Egypt, and Macau, China. Rasitha moved to the Cayman Islands and now works as a designer at Celebrations. Rasitha was recognised as the “Young artist of the Year” in Sri Lanka in 2001, which was conducted by the George Keyt Foundation, and has a piece of work in the 2003 Encyclopedia Britannica Asian Art book. In 2012 Rasitha won the coveted Ogier Art Award for his mixed media artwork entitled ‘Give Up One’.



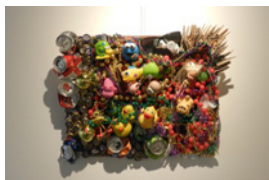
FREDERICO URIBE, born in Bogota Colombia in 1962, lives and works in Miami. His works adopt a hybrid character that creates resistance to classification. Uribe is a conceptual artist resorting to the language of pop art through the use of objects found in daily life, but with a formal reference to the history and tradition of classical art. Uribe’s sculptures - created from coins, forks, shoes, pencils and numerous other found objects - follow the classics canons of figurative and abstract art, but the result is absolutely unusual, whimsical, of enormous efficacy and communicability.



AVRIL WARD is a British born, South African raised, artist now living and working in the Cayman Islands. Largely self taught, she is skilled in oils, acrylic, charcoal and mixed media. Working in series of usually 20-30 pieces before altering her style, medium and subject matter, her evolving style expresses her diverse interest in life including: her love of her environment, her observation of the obscure yet obvious, her spirituality and her comment on social pressures. Avril also work in three-dimensional art which ranges from relief sculptures, assemblage art, and limited edition bronze sculptures.



CHRIS MANN has resided in the Cayman Islands for 30 years. He works as Head of Art at Clifton Hunter High School and has been a frequent exhibitor at NGCI featuring in such exhibitions as: *Arreckly*, *Watermarks*, *Anchored* in Landscapes (his two man show with David Bridgeman) and *Emergence* the NGCI’s post- Ivan group show in 2005. Chris has represented the Cayman Islands in exhibitions internationally and his work resides in the collections of NGCI, CINA, the National Museum, CNCF, Royal College of Music London, and many private collections throughout the world.



DARLENE YOUNG, born in Canada, has called Cayman her home for the last fifteen years. The natural beauty of the Islands and its people has inspired both her photography and expanded her artistic creativity in different directions. Darlene has been an active participant in Art@Governors, Cayfest, as well as the National Gallery exhibition *Stories We Tell*. Always looking for new avenues to explore, *Art of Assemblage* falls right into Darlene’s desire for recycling and protecting mother earth.





JOHN BROAD was born in Essex, England and attended Southend School of Art and Edinburgh College of Art. Moving to Cayman in 1989, he took up an art teaching post at the Cayman Islands High School. Since then he has held many successful group and solo exhibitions in Grand Cayman and was recently featured in the London Underground's contemporary artist series. In 2003 he was commissioned by the Quincentennial Celebration committee to create a tile painting commemorating 500 years of Cayman Islands history. He was also awarded the Cayman Islands National Cultural Foundation's prize for Artistic Achievement in 2004.



KAITLYN ELPHINSTONE graduated from the University of Toronto in 2008 with a BA in Visual Studies and Art History. The formal setting and urban landscape of Toronto allowed Kaitlyn to refine her visual and conceptual vocabulary that emerged through a focus on the intersection between natural and manmade constructs. While completing an MA in Arts Policy and Management, Kaitlyn had the opportunity to live, work, and exhibit in London, which gave her exposure to diverse artist communities and creative trends. In October 2010 Kaitlyn completed her dissertation on organizing creativity, inspiring her to develop her own art practice in Cayman.



KAROLY SZUCS, born in Hungary, is the owner of Artisan Metalworks, an award winning metal fabrication company. His work can be viewed across the Cayman Islands in private homes, restaurants, roundabouts and public parks. He is perhaps best known for his bronze Catboat sculpture in Hero's Square. A poignant reminder of the most celebrated icon of Cayman's seafaring past, *Dreams from the Sea* was unveiled as part of the 2008 National Heroes Day celebrations.



DEAL EBANKS (left) creates gigs, warrie boards and kites. Deal was a contributing artist in NGCI's *Emergence* exhibition and was featured in *21st Century Cayman* – an exhibition that "reimagined" Caymanian traditional art in the 21st century.



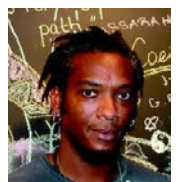
WRAY BANKER (right) is a painter, graphic designer, founding member of "Native Sons". His projects are as diverse as, painting murals for Pedro St James, to designing the Cayman Islands pin for the 1996 Olympic games, to creating exhibits for NGCI.



WALLY WARREN's fascination with the resurrection and transformation of objects form the basis of this American artists work. A childhood desire to become an architect propelled him towards the "hands on" building of model cities, however, one semester in engineering school convinced him that there was no formula for his visions. Instead he became an artist so that his own hand and eye would dictate the fanciful, tactile world which he might inhabit. Technology has unleashed a multitude of "raw material" for Wally to use. Discarded computers, televisions and plastic toys have become key elements for his microcosms of our sprawling landscape.



ASTON EBANKS is a self-taught Conceptual artist who was born in Jamaica and resides permanently in Grand Cayman with his family, following stints in Switzerland and Western Samoa. He has become well-known for using recycled materials in his artwork with projects such as "The Maze", a site specific installation constructed out of three thousand recycled wooden shipping pallets and "The Faley" an ongoing permanent installation constructed out recycled wood. His work has been featured in the National Gallery's *Arekkly, Persistence of Memory* and *21st Century Cayman* exhibitions. Aston also works closely with NGCI as an outreach Art Instruc-



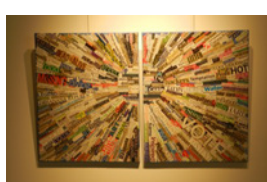
GREG LIPTON, a Canadian/Caymanian artist, first came to the Cayman Islands in 1983 when he spent his first summer with his grandparents and extended family in Cayman Brac. Through his art, Greg hopes to convey strong clear messages with which people will be able to identify. Greg fills each creation with hope that the artwork will inspire viewers and will lead to some level of self reflection . The first version of *Solitary Confinement* was featured in his solo exhibition *Out of Control?* in 2011. Part self-portrait, it is meant to reflect how technology can isolate us from one another and control our lives.



DAVID BRIDGEMAN's works have strong ties to the landscape, both past and present, and contain images and symbols that bridge the gap between the Caribbean and his native England. Bridgeman works in a variety of media to convey these feelings, which often involve an underlying social commentary about life on a small island and explorations of cultural identity are central to his work. David has exhibited throughout the Caribbean, North America and Europe. His works form part of the collections in NGCI, National Museum, Cultural Foundation and Government House.



PETER POLACK was born in Jamaica and graduated from the University of the West Indies and Norman Manley Law School. In 1983 he moved to the Cayman Islands where he has practiced law ever since. Peter is the author of several papers on warfare that have been published internationally and his research led to the first international release of a list of Cuban casualties of the Angolan war. This is his first exhibition as an artist which was inspired by his experiences with youthful offenders in the legal system and research about the war in Angola, the flag of which is red and black. The colours red and black also frequently appear in various forms in the legal



AMAR SHEOW was born in British Guiana, relocated to the U.S. in his early 20s and finally settled on Grand Cayman more than thirty years ago. Influenced by his love and exposure to the artworks of the Masters, Amar integrates his lifetime appreciation and exposure to art in his own work, guided by instinct, intuition, inspiration and observation. He produces work in abstract, minimalism, surrealism, impressionism, graphics, scenic and pop art, in colour, black & white and sepia tone, from his personal perspective, with a digital camera. Amar frequently exhibits on Grand Cayman.



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Artwork from Pirates Point Resort guests

In a similar way to the other assemblage artists in Art of Assemblage, visitors to Pirates Point Resort in Little Cayman create sculptures out of “found” bric-a-brac and natural fibres washed up on the beach. Owner Gladys Howard provides brushes, paints, and a hot glue gun and guests provide their imagination and only whatever materials they find on the island's shores. Their work ranges from highly skilled dedications of island wildlife to whimsical and witty works of art.



Rock Iguana
Rocky Ross and Lannie Smith
(Pasco, Washington)
2000



Couple in a Car
Sal and Andrea Salvaggio
(Washington DC)
2001



Baby Iguana Hatching
Pat Shipman and Alan Walker
(Little Cayman)
2006



Sweet Lips Sponge/ Nassau Grouper
Molly and BJ Mills
(Hillsborough, NC)
1999



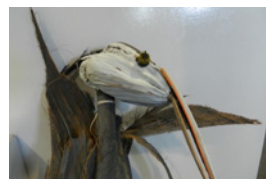
Craterosaurus
John and Donna Rasure
1995



Turtle Shell Toilet Seat
Melissa French
(Clearwater, FL)
2012



West Indian Whistling Ducks
Rocky Ross and Lannie Smith
(Pasco, Washington)
2006



Great Blue Heron
Jim and Deb Murray
(Glenview, FL)
2012



Fruits of the Sea
Dick and Patty Stone
(Salem, SC)
2008



Surfing Dude
Sal & Andrea Salvaggio
(Washington, DC)
2005



Two-Faced Fish
Avril Ward
Driftwood, coral and collected items
2013



Lion Fish
Mary Grove and Rosemay Chinnici
(Mill Valley, CA)
2007