

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 17 March 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jamaican Art on Exhibit at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands

The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands (NGCI) examines the development in the art of their closest neighbour Jamaica with the exhibition – *Jamaican Art: 1960s & 1970s*.

This period of Jamaican history was a time of dramatic social and cultural change in which notions of nationhood were actively explored, and challenged, in local cultural production. The artists of the mid-20th century nationalist school such as Edna Manley, Alvin Marriott, Albert Huie and David Pottinger, continued to build on their original interests with moderately modernist depictions of iconic local subject matter. However, they also responded to the cultural and artistic changes that took place around them, as evidence by the introduction of abstraction which pushed their work in new directions. Similar developments could be seen in the work of artists who had emerged in the periphery of the nationalist school, such as Carl Abrahams and Gloria Escoffery, both of whom found their unique artistic voice in the post-Independence period and added to the growing diversity of Jamaican art.

Thirty-five works (on loan from the National Gallery of Jamaica (NGJ) and local collections) will be displayed and curated by NGJ Director Dr Veerle Poupeye and Acting Senior Curator O'Neil Lawrence. The exhibition will include work in a variety of media, styles and genres, and by formally trained and self-taught artists, including some well-known master pieces by artists such as Edna Manley, Alvin Marriott, Christopher Gonzalez, Albert Huie, Barrington Watson, Osmond Watson, Karl Abrahams, Kacho, David Pottinger, and other works that are of equal quality and significance but have not received the same level of exposure.

"The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands is delighted host *Jamaica Art: 1960s & 1970s* from the collection of the National Gallery of Jamaica," says NGCI Director Natalie Urquhart. "This exhibition marks an important international collaboration between NGCI and NGJ, and it is an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the long-standing social, cultural and economic relationships between our two countries."

The exhibition has been made possible by the following companies: Ministry of Health, Youth, Sports and Culture; The Jamaican Consulate; Cayman Airways Cargo; StaMar; Holiday Inn Resort Grand Cayman; Andy's Rent-A-Car; Massive and Mise en Place. It runs from 22 March until 15 May with a

special lecture by NGJ Director and exhibition curator Dr. Veerle Poupeye scheduled for Saturday, 22 March at 5.00 PM in NGCI's Dart Auditorium. Admission is free of charge. For more information call (345) 945 8111 or visit www.nationalgallery.org.ky.

Caption: City Life by Osmond Watson, 1968. From the collection of the National Gallery of Jamaica.

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