



National Gallery of the Cayman Islands presents

Plastic in Paradise

SCENES OF REAL LIFE FICTIONS BY **HEIDI BASSETT BLAIR**

Curated by Heidi Bassett Blair and Natalie Urquhart

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

■ **Plastic In Paradise - Scenes of Real Life Fictions by Heidi Bassett Blair**

Exhibition, 23 April 2015 until 3 July 2015

Plastic in Paradise is the artist's response to moments of her youth, and moments as an adult, in photographs. These images are creations, or recreations, of past experiences from a life that is full of dichotomy; both real and, at the same time, fantastical. Some of the scenes are completely candid. Others are staged, drawing on a moment that has already passed, or inspired by iconic art historical references and popular media. Truth and fiction are woven together to create a narrative that is both real and whimsical.

Says the artists, "This series traces a journey from eastern Canada to the Californian coast, on to the Cayman Islands, and the many places in-between. The works create a visual diary of a newly embraced world – a life less ordinary – where a beautiful landscape and a plastic blow-up toy intersect nature and the man made. I have attempted to embrace both the plastic, and the notion of paradise, to create images of beauty and nostalgia."

A members' preview evening for National Gallery members and guests will be held on Thursday, 23 April 2015 from 6pm to 8pm.

■ **Lecture by Heidi Bassett Blair Scenes of Real Life Fictions**

Special Lecture, Saturday, 25 April 2015, 6pm to 7:30pm

International artist Heidi Bassett Blair will discuss her journey as a photographer and the story behind her series *Plastic in Paradise*. Admission is C\$5 for non-members and free for all NGCI Members. Refreshments will be served.

■ **Family Day - The Art of Photography Event, Saturday, 9 May 2015, 10am to 3pm**

Join us for free drop-in art activities based on the exhibition *Plastic in Paradise* by Heidi Bassett Blair. Family activity sheets and art materials will be available for children of all ages in the National Gallery breezeway, and self-guided tour packs can be collected in the Gallery for families to use as they explore the temporary exhibition. Free coffee and tea will also be available in the Art Café. Donations welcome. For additional details email education@nationalgallery.org.ky or call (345) 945 8111.

Contact Us

For more information regarding any of the events listed above and to RSVP please get in touch by emailing info@nationalgallery.org.ky or by calling (345) 945 8111.

■ **Lecture by Jaime Hahn Photography - History, Process: the “How” & “Why”**

Special Lecture, Thursday, 14 May 2015,
6pm to 7:30pm

Jamie Hahn, an interdisciplinary artist working in video, artist books and prints, lectured in Photography and Digital Media Arts at Eastern Washington University before relocating to Cayman in 2015. Here she traces the development of photography and explores its nuances.

■ **Adult Workshop - Photography 101
Instructor: Cathy Church**

Art Class, Saturday, 23 May 2015, 3pm to 6pm

Step inside the NGCI Education Centre for a hands-on photography workshop where you can use your own digital camera and learn how to take spectacular photographs. This course is designed for those who feel they are ready to progress to a more advanced level in photography. Cathy will make it fun and easy to understand, while sharing world-class ideas. If you are not familiar with what an f/stop is, you are invited to email Cathy in advance at cchurch@cathychurch.com to request a two page handout explaining exposure controls so that you will be up to speed on the basics and ready to move forward.

Upon registration, if you wish, you may submit up to three photographs for an interactive, anonymous critique. Students are encouraged to bring along their own cameras and an inanimate object to photograph (e.g. a stuffed animal, a large piece of costume jewelry, a toy, and flowers (artificial or real)). The workshop is \$60 with NGCI membership and \$66 for non-members. To register and for details email education@nationalgallery.org.ky or call (345) 945 8111.

■ **Panel Discussion - Photography:
Subject vs Content; Composition**

Discussion, Thursday, 28 May 2015,
6pm to 7:30pm

Join us for a thought-provoking discussion about the art of contemporary photography and “subject vs content”. The panel will be chaired by artist and lecturer Jaime Hahn and feature guest photographers working in a variety of film media. Admission is CI\$5 for non-members and free for all NGCI Members. Refreshments will be served.

■ **Film Launch of Caymanian Art: A New Frontier by Caymanian Filmmaker Ernest Jacob Olde VI**

Documentary, Friday, 12 June 2015, 6pm to 11pm

A new documentary film which examines the NGCI Permanent Collection and its artists will be screened in the National Gallery Dart Auditorium 12 June 2015. Join us for a special viewing, a discussion after the film and to celebrate the launch into the evening. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

■ **Lunchtime Lecture with the Director - Natalie Urquhart**

Event, Wednesday 17 June 2015,
12:30pm to 1:30pm

This event includes a behind-the-scenes tour during which Natalie Urquhart will discuss how the exhibition *Plastic in Paradise* was developed, and the themes and the stories behind the stunning images. The lunchtime tour is free of charge. Donations are welcome. Lunch and other refreshments will be available for purchase in the NGCI Art Café and unique gifts will be on sale in National Gallery Gift Shop.

■ **Garden Picnic**

Lunch, Wednesday 17 June 2015, 12pm to 2:30pm

Join us for our “pop-up” Garden Picnic brought to you by the National Gallery Art Café. A delicious set menu including soup and sandwiches will be served in the National Gallery gardens between 12 noon and 2:30 PM. Lunch packs will also be available for those on the go, and don’t forget to stop by the exhibition halls to view the Permanent Collection and the temporary exhibition *Plastic in Paradise*. For menu details email events@nationalgallery.org.ky or call (345) 945 8111. Reservations are recommended for groups of four or more.

■ **CayFilm Festival at the National Gallery**

International Film Festival, Friday and Saturday,
19 - 20 June 2015

CayFilm is a new annual multi-day spectacular event designed to create interest and excitement about the Cayman Islands as a world-class filming destination. Film screenings, special lectures, workshops and family activities will be held at the National Gallery Friday and Saturday during the day and the Underwater Film Festival and party will be held Friday evening. For details visit www.cayfilm.com.

■ **Late Night at the Gallery**

Event, Friday, 19 June 2015, 5pm to 10pm

The National Gallery will be open to the public for a late night viewing of *Plastic in Paradise* by Heidi Bassett Blair. Admission to the event is free and refreshments will be served. Donations welcome.

■ **Free Youth Tours for All Ages**

Guided Tour by Appointment, 23 April 2015
until 3 July 2015

Free guided tours of the temporary exhibition *Plastic in Paradise* by Heidi Bassett Blair are available for students of all ages at The National Gallery. Students will discuss the exhibition and get hands-on with interactive activity sheets. Topics covered include art, social studies, narratives, literacy and numeracy. For information or to book a tour contact NGCI at 945-8111 or education@nationalgallery.org.ky.

Shop

Our Gift Shop works with NGCI curators and artists to find the very best products to support our exhibition schedule. Gorgeous coffee table books titled *Plastic in Paradise* by Heidi Bassett Blair will be available for purchase as well as other specialty books on photography. The National Gallery Gift Shop is open during regular gallery hours and NGCI members receive a 10% discount.