



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

*The Arrival of the Commissioner Photographed by Joseph Steinmetz. Image and artwork by Courtney Platt, 2012.
Original image by Lois Steinmetz, courtesy of the Steinmetz Collection, 1950*



The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands Presents

Now & Then

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

1 December 2015 – 2 January 2016

Now & Then – A Photographic Journey Through Time, an exhibition of photographs by Courtney Platt in association with NGCI curator Natalie Urquhart, the Steinmetz Archive and the Cayman Islands National Archive, is returning to the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands (NGCI) for the month of December.

Working with archival photographs from the Cayman Islands National Archive (CINA) and the Steinmetz Collection, Natalie Urquhart and photographer Courtney Platt have replicated and digitally merged the past and present to provide a window into Cayman's history. Past and current landmarks, buildings, events and generations of people blend together in a surreal, and at times, haunting mixture of imagery.

Urquhart puts the series' popularity down to the accessible subject matter, the remarkable skill with which Platt has digitally merged the images of past and present, and the resulting emotive quality that the images radiate. "It is an incredibly moving collection that resonates with a wide audience," she notes. "We had an overwhelming response from the community when the exhibition was initially held in 2012, and again in 2013. Despite record visitor attendance during the initial run, NGCI staff continue to receive frequent calls requesting another chance to view the series," she confirms. "It really is a case of 'back by popular demand'."

Now & Then runs 1 December to 2 January at the National Gallery on Esterley Tibbetts Highway. Admission is free although donations are greatly appreciated. For more information call Ivanna Powery on 345 945 8111 or email assistant@nationalgallery.org.ky. To book school or group tours email Kerwin Ebanks at education@nationalgallery.org.ky.

Programme of Events

A Members' Christmas Party, afterhours viewing and artisan fair will be held on Wednesday, 9 December 2015 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Come see the wonderful and whimsical selection of unique gift ideas during our ever popular NGCI Artisan Fair! Perfect for holiday shopping or a little something for yourself, we are pleased to present works of art from 20 artists featured in the NGCI Gift Shop. The event includes afterhours viewing of the latest photography exhibition *Now & Then*, live music by Red White and Blues, special discounts for NGCI members, mulled wine and minced pies. Bring a little bit of art into your world this holiday!

Proceeds from the NGCI Gift Shop help fund free National Gallery education programmes and free admission for everyone.

Seniors Morning View

Tour, Monday, 7 December 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Join NGCI Education Coordinator, Kerwin Ebanks, as he leads guests on a tour of the National Gallery's most popular exhibition *Now & Then – A Photographic Journey Through Time*. The tour is free of charge and includes group discussions and light refreshments. Seniors and their families welcome.

Special Lecture with the Cayman Islands National Archives

Event, Thursday, 17 December 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM

This event includes a behind-the-scenes tour during which a specialist from the Cayman Islands National Archives (CINA) will discuss CINA's photographic collections and how the exhibition *Now & Then* was developed. The lunchtime lecture is free of charge. Donations are welcome. Lunch and other refreshments will be available for purchase in the NGCI Art Café and exhibition prints will be for sale in the National Gallery Gift Shop.

Garden Lunch

Lunch, Thursday 17 December 12:00 PM onward

Join us for a garden lunch 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 5:00 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 *Now & Then – A Photographic Journey Through Time*. For menu details email events@nationalgallery.org.ky or call (345) 945 8111. Reservations are recommended for groups of four or more.

Family Day

Event, Saturday, 19 December 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Join us for free art activities based on the exhibition *Now & Then – A Photographic Journey Through Time*. 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. Beverages, sandwiches and snacks will be available for purchase in the Art Café. For additional details email education@nationalgallery.org.ky or call (345) 945 8111.

Free Youth Tours for All Ages

Guided Tour by Appointment, 1 December 2015 until 2 January 2016

Free guided tours of the temporary exhibition *Now & Then – A Photographic Journey Through Time* 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, history, literacy and numeracy. For information or to book a tour contact NGCI at (345) 945 8111 or education@nationalgallery.org.ky.

Gallery Shop

Our Gallery Shop works with NGCI curators and artists to find the very best products to support our exhibition schedule. This December prints from the National Gallery's most popular exhibition *Now & Then – A Photographic Journey Through Time* will be for sale, a perfect Christmas gift for family, friends and clients. The National Gallery Gift Shop is open during regular gallery hours and NGCI members receive a 10% discount.

OPEN! NGCI Art Café

The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands is thrilled to launch a brand new Art Café menu which now offers a wide variety of beverages, snacks for kids and adults as well as fresh lunch items and pastries. Kindly supported by Kirk Market, the Art Café is an excellent place to spend your morning coffee break, lunch hour or have your next business meeting. The Art Café is open Monday to Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and overlooks the beautiful Deutsche Bank Sculpture Gardens. Come out and enjoy new products, new hours and a brand new approach to enhancing your visit at the National Gallery. Follow our website at www.nationalgallery.org.ky to stay updated on weekly lunch menus and special events.

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.

About the Contributors

Courtney Platt (contemporary images and artwork)

An eclectic photographer living in Grand Cayman since 1983 and creating photos since 1976, Courtney specializes in everything from events and weddings to fine art photography. During eight assignments for National Geographic Magazine since 1987, Courtney has learned a great deal about analyzing and augmenting available light and making his work come together precisely at “the Geographic Moment.” Although photo finishing has evolved in the digital age to mean late nights at the computer, he finds gratification in the level of refinement that it makes possible to achieve in the final image. It is remarkable to see the difference between the film he started with over 30 years ago and what he produces now, with Nikon's latest, greatest professional digital cameras and Photoshop. Courtney

strives to remain on the leading edge of technology in both hardware and software, ever learning and always pushing the envelope.

Natalie Urquhart (curator, concept, editing)

When Natalie came across a similar exhibition by Russian photographer Sergey Larenchov, who merges WWII-era photos with contemporary shots of identical locations in Berlin, Leningrad, and other European cities, she knew she wanted to recreate the idea in a Caymanian context. Familiar with Courtney's skill both behind the camera and with Photoshop she reached out to him with the idea. The pair spent numerous hours researching archival images before narrowing it down to 24 'workable' photographs. She then worked with Courtney to edit the final merged images and was responsible for the editorial component, and curation of the final exhibition.

The Steinmetz Collection (select archival images)

The pictures from the Steinmetz Archive, owned by Pinnacle Media, were taken in 1950 by Joseph Janney Steinmetz, a world-renowned commercial photographer whose work has been referred to as "an American social history." He visited The Cayman Islands in 1950 and took a series of photographs depicting life here.

Steinmetz was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1905 and died in Sarasota, Florida in 1985. Steinmetz earned a degree in English from Princeton University. Following college, Steinmetz travelled the world. In Egypt, he purchased his first professional camera in 1928. A chance encounter at a society event with Pete Marin, an editor for The Saturday Evening Post, led to Steinmetz's first consistent work as a professional photographer. After moving to Sarasota, Florida in 1941, Steinmetz's work appeared in numerous nationally distributed magazines.

The Cayman Islands National Archive Collections (select archival images)

CINA plays an essential role in documenting the evolution of Caymanian society by preserving and contributing to the individual and collective memory. As keeper of the nation's memory, they provide three main services: public access to archival records, the acquisition and preservation of archival records and records management for Government records.

The historic holdings of the National Archive consists of records, archival materials (photographs and documents) and publications in various formats which document the history of the Cayman Islands and its way of life. The collections featured in *Now and Then* are:

C Bernard Lewis collection 1938

Ira Thompson collection c. 1940

Jack Cohen collection 1942

Ray Stride collection c. 1940

Everette Humphrey collections 1968 & 1973

Royal Commonwealth Society Expedition collection 1962

Marcia Bodden – Bush collection c. 1940s

Aarona Kohlman collection 1925-1928

Contact Us

For more information regarding the Now & Then exhibition please get in touch with our Curatorial Department by emailing assistantcurator@nationalgallery.org.ky or by calling (345) 945 8111.