

AT-A-GLANCE PROGRAMME

Tilting Axis 3

NATIONAL GALLERY OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

MAY 18-20, 2017

Tilting Axis is a roving meeting, conceptualized by ARC Magazine and the Fresh Milk Art Platform Inc., that moves in and out of the Caribbean region on an annual basis. It brings together arts professionals who are interested in, and committed to, expanding contemporary visual art practice across all linguistic areas of the region. Participants include those based in the Caribbean and its diasporas, professionals working in the coastal rim of the Caribbean, as well as global professionals whose research and practice is influenced by the region. The goal of Tilting Axis is to facilitate opportunities for those who are living and working in the Caribbean, to increase interest and understanding of this region's contemporary visual practice while contributing to a healthy cultural eco-system and purposeful growth for the Caribbean creative sector.

Tilting Axis 3: Curating the Caribbean, is a continuation of conversations formed in 2015 at Tilting Axis: Within and Beyond the Caribbean in St. George, Barbados, and at Tilting Axis 2: Caribbean Strategies at the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) February 2016, but within the specific context of curating. We will explore how artist-led initiatives, institutions, and government cultural departments among others in the Caribbean are nurturing the visual arts sector through exhibitions, residencies, programming, arts education and cultural policy; and forward-thinking models actively demonstrating how the Caribbean's fragile arts ecology is being enriched, provoked and buttressed, through a curatorial lens by professionals both in and out of the archipelago.

Host Organisation: National Gallery of the Cayman Islands

Founding Directors: Holly Bynoe & Annalee Davis. Host Director: Natalie Urquhart

Core Committee: Holly Bynoe, Annalee Davis, Tobias Ostrander, Mario Caro and Natalie Urquhart

Core Partners: ARC Inc., Fresh Milk Art Platform Inc., Res Artis, Perez Art Museum Miami, and the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands

Associate Partners & Sponsors: British Council, Davidoff Art Initiative, and Susan Olde, OBE.

ARRIVAL & DAY ONE

Arrival: Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Guest arrival.

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Icebreaker. Sunshine Suites Resort poolside.

Day 1: Thursday, May 18, 2017

10:00 AM: Welcome

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM: **Tilting the Axis: Creatively Re-imagining the Caribbean** by Annalee Davis (Co-director, Tilting Axis; Caribbean Arts Manager, British Council, Barbados). What does it mean to tilt the axis? Davis, will provide background to the birth of this roving project developed with her colleague, Holly Bynoe, as a mechanism which aims to deepen links among those who are working in the Caribbean.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: **Keynote Speech - Ecstasy, Encounters and Elisions: Finding a Curatorial Compass.** Curator and Pérez Art Museum Miami director Franklin Sirmans will discuss his recent curatorial projects in Los Angeles, Miami and internationally, including the large-scale biennial Prospect New Orleans, P.: Notes for Now, presented in 2014.

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM **Panel 1: The Space of Exhibitions: Traditional versus Nontraditional Spaces.** Moderated by Tobias Ostrander (Chief Curator, Perez Art Museum, Miami) with Claire Tancons (Independent curator, New Orleans), Sean Leonard (Co-founder of Alice Yard, Trinidad), and Eungie Joo (Independent curator, New York).

The diversity of forms and spaces for exhibitions have increased dramatically over the past decades, as we see traditional museum and gallery spaces placed in dialogue with the growth of alternative spaces, biennials, festivals and discursive exhibition projects. This panel will site-specific approaches involved with these various forms and the opportunities and challenges they offer. Emphasis will be placed on concerns that specifically relate to a Caribbean context, exploring the role of governmental involvement, or lack thereof, in exhibition development, limited economic resources, audience reception and specific logistical issues involved.

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Coffee break

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM: Overview of the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands (NGCI) and the Cayman Islands art community. Tour of the NGCI Permanent Collection and current exhibition.

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM: **Pop-up Sessions.** Six micro presentations by TA3 delegates sharing updates on regional art initiatives.

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Welcome Reception & Book Fair at the National Gallery for delegates, local artists and invited guests.

DAY TWO

Day 2: Friday, May 19, 2017

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM : Welcome & recap of day one

10:30 AM - 12: 00 PM **Panel 2: The Time of Exhibitions: Historical versus Contemporary Practices.** Moderated by Natalie Urquhart (Director of NGCI, Cayman Islands) with Tanya Barson (Chief Curator at the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Spain), Christopher Cozier (Artist and independent curator, Trinidad); and Sara Hermann (Curator and visual arts specialist at the Centro León of Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic).

From nation-affirming narratives hosted by newly formed national institutions, through large-scale international survey exhibitions, to increasingly critical explorations and community-based interventions that are being generated today, how has regional curatorship and the exhibition of Caribbean art changed over the past few decades? This panel will explore the evolving constellation of issues that have shaped exhibition development in the region including concepts of time, historical legacy, political and geographical frameworks, access and mobility, and conditions of visibility, to determine what new models for the display of Caribbean art might look like.

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM. **Panel 3: Curating the Archive.** Moderated by Dr Mario A. Caro (Lecturer in Art, Culture, and Technology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Board member of Res Artis, New York) with Dr. Eddie Chambers (Professor of Art and Art History at the University of Texas, Austin), Tiffany Boyle (Curator and co-founder of Mother Tongue, Scotland) and Miguel A. Lopez (Chief curator of TEOR/éTica in San Jose, Costa Rica).

Curators practicing in the Caribbean face unique challenges operating within their field, although many of these are shared with others working in the cultural sector within and outside of the region. Many of these challenges have to do with the lack of funding and access to basic resources essential for their work. A basic need is mobility within the region, and beyond, which is hampered by the lack of adequate infrastructure. Most importantly, however, access to formal training in curatorial practices is greatly lacking. This panel will look at archives not only as a rich resource for research but also as means for training emerging curators to organize these materials as essential for historical as well as contemporary curatorial projects.

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Coffee break

3:30 AM - 4:30 PM: Presentation by Nicole Smythe-Johnson on her Tilting Axis Curatorial Fellowship experience and the new John Dunkley exhibition at PAMM, which she co-curated with Diana Nawi.

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM: *Actions Between Territories*, a public lecture by Chris Cozier.

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Davidoff Art Initiative delegate dinner at Casanova's By The Sea

DAY THREE & DEPARTURE

Day 3: Saturday, May 20, 2017

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM - Welcome & recap of day two

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM **Panel 4: Collective Curatorial Practices:** Moderated by Holly Bynoe (Chief Curator at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas; founder, ARC Magazine) with Dr. Shani Roper (Curator at Liberty Hall: Legacy of Marcus Garvey, Jamaica), Alon Schwabe (Co-director of Cooking Sections, UK) and Carla Acevedo-Yates (Assistant Curator at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, Michigan).

This conversation will focus on the impact of collaboration on curatorial practices, whether it be through institutional exchange, informal partnerships, personal connections with other professionals in the industry or through mediation with the artist and the public. Here we will strive to define curatorial actions and how its inherent exclusivity and inclusivity affects how institutions, informal art spaces, nations and regions function to develop methodologies that lead to decolonized practices, advocacy and a fairer more neutral understanding of diverse representation within the region, the U.K and throughout the diaspora.

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM: Break Out Sessions

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Coffee break

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Wrap up (Annalee Davis)

**7:00 PM - 9:30 PM: Closing dinner, sponsored by Susan A. Olde, OBE,
at Macabuca Restaurant**

Departure: Sunday, May 21, 2017

Participants leave.

9:00 AM to 11:30 PM: Artist Studio tours (booking essential email
assistantcurator@nationalgallery.org.ky)



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