

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

This new series of work marks a significant departure for the artist, who is perhaps best known for his explorations of traditional Caymanian heritage, primarily the art of ship building and life on the islands during the turn of the twentieth century.

Prompted by a sense of disillusionment and of growing social division within his community, Solomon has created a series of eighteen works that speak to a variety of social issues ranging from the use of GMO mosquitoes to beach access, politics, birth rights, seaman's benefits, the rise of gated communities and foreclosures, environmental concerns, mental and physical health issues, immigration, economics, and so forth.

Created as a visual diary, Solomon's illustrations of contemporary daily life in the Islands. He draws inspiration directly from debates on local talk shows, newspaper extracts, information gathered via Freedom of Information requests, conversations he has had, or comments overheard in the street. They depict a country in the process of rapid social, economic, spiritual, physical and mental change, and a community that is grappling with prosperity and all its challenges. Staged in a theme park setting, the diverse rides, slot machine references and arcade games serve as a metaphor for the "joy rides and down sides" of life on an overseas territory.

Says the artist: "I feel that as an artist it is my duty to communicate my observations on canvas, observations which are based on events in the lives of ordinary people living in the Cayman Islands – both real and perceived. I am, we are, personally affected in one way or another by the rapid changes taking place within our community. By inviting viewers through my "house of thought," I hope to start real conversations, and to find lasting solutions, to some of the concerns we face."

**The National Gallery is proud to support the artist in his efforts to critically engage with his environment and to provide a safe platform for discussions around topical, and often uncomfortable, issues. The opinions of the artist remain his own and in no way reflect those of the organisation*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gordon Solomon is a painter and musician born in George Town, Grand Cayman, who studied fine art at the University of Superior Art, Cuba. He is a member of the Caymanian art collective Native Sons and his work is primarily concerned with Caymanian heritage, which he captures in a variety of visual art genres, from Cubism and Pointillism to Realism.

Solomon has exhibited extensively in the Cayman Islands and overseas, and has received several public mural commissions. His work can be found in the public collections of the Cayman Islands National Archive, the Cayman Islands National Museum and the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands, as well as in private collections at home and abroad.

