

LAND AND *Sea*

The works in this exhibition span some forty years of artistic expression in the Cayman Islands, showcasing the talents of a key group of artists who played an instrumental role in popularising the landscape genre and the now widely practised watercolour medium. Beginning with some of the earliest examples of fine art produced in Cayman— a series of prints from the 1960s by American artist Patrick Quin — *Land & Sea* traces these artists' evolving responses to ever-popular subjects: from traditional architectural scenes, to idyllic land and seascapes, to images that pay homage to Cayman's long and proud maritime history. Reflecting the growing maturity of the local art scene, many of the featured artists were central figures in the early development of Cayman's Visual Arts Society (VAS)—which was founded in 1977— including Joanne and Jeremy Sibley, Moira Abbott and Janet Walker. During the 1980s and 90s, the VAS provided a forum for both Caymanian and expatriate artists to develop and exhibit their work—with the latter largely responsible for the proliferation of 'en plein air' painting, or painting directly from nature, which had its roots in the Impressionist movement in France in the nineteenth century. Into the 1990s and 2000s this style remained widespread in Cayman, giving rise to the 'picturesque' aesthetic (a term that refers to images that are both visually attractive and inherently nostalgic) that is evident throughout the works on display.