

Conversations with the Past – In the Present Tense

3RD CAYMAN ISLANDS BIENNIAL

31 MAY – 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

Taking as its starting point the ways in which history continues to reverberate in the present, *Conversations with the Past—In the Present Tense* considers the multifaceted nature of Caymanian culture by seeking to interrogate its various social, political, and artistic legacies. The theme of this year’s biennial draws inspiration from the writings of cultural theorist Stuart Hall, who defined identity not only as a matter of ‘being’ but of ‘becoming’. Viewing culture through such a lens, the participating artists adopt a variety of creative approaches to consider how our individual and collective sense of self is shaped by the interplay of history, memory, and subjective experience.

From performative explorations that harness the art of storytelling, to interventions into the public realm and the surrounding landscape, the featured artworks highlight the role such sites of memory play in maintaining meaningful connections with the past. As the forces of change bring to the fore feelings of loss and nostalgia, this biennial lastly seeks to provide a platform for thought-provoking discussions, shedding light on the complexities and contradictions that define the Caymanian people and the experiences of those who call these Islands home.

NGCI Curatorial Team