

NATIONAL GALLERY OF THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS



Art & Maritime Heritage



NATIONAL
GALLERY
CAYMAN ISLANDS

What does 'maritime' mean?

Maritime

ALL ABOUT HUMANS' RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OCEAN AND OTHER WATERWAYS.



Shipping



Sailing



Fishing and Turtling

Turtle Fishery

CAYMAN WAS ONCE CALLED "LAS TORTUGAS" BECAUSE OF HOW MANY TURTLES WERE IN OUR WATERS!

"LAS TORTUGAS" MEANS "THE TURTLES" IN SPANISH. TURTLES WERE A MAIN FOOD SOURCE AND TRADE ITEM FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE INDUSTRIES CHANGED AND THEY BECAME ENDANGERED.



Turtle Fishery Cont'd

CAYMANIANS SAILED TO JAMAICA, CUBA AND THE MOSQUITO CAYS OF HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA TO FISH FOR TURTLES. SOMETIMES, THEY WOULD BUILD SHELTERS ON THE WATER AND STAY OUT THERE FOR MONTHS AT A TIME.



Getting 'the call'

IN THE MID-1900S, MANY CAYMANIANS WORKED IN CARIBBEAN AND INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING. THE NATIONAL BULK CARRIERS, BASED OUT OF THE USA, WERE ONE OF THE MAIN COMPANIES CAYMANIANS WORKED FOR. BEING OFFERED A JOB WITH THE NATIONAL BULK CARRIERS WAS SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS 'GETTING THE CALL'.



Catboats

IN THE EARLY 1900s, A NEW TYPE OF BOAT CALLED A CATBOAT WAS DESIGNED BY DANIEL JERVIS OF CAYMAN BRAC. FISHERMAN USED CATBOATS FOR TURLING. THE SPECIAL SHAPE OF THE BOAT MADE IT EASIER FOR THE FISHERMAN TO HAUL THE LARGE TURTLES THEY CAUGHT ONTO SHORE.

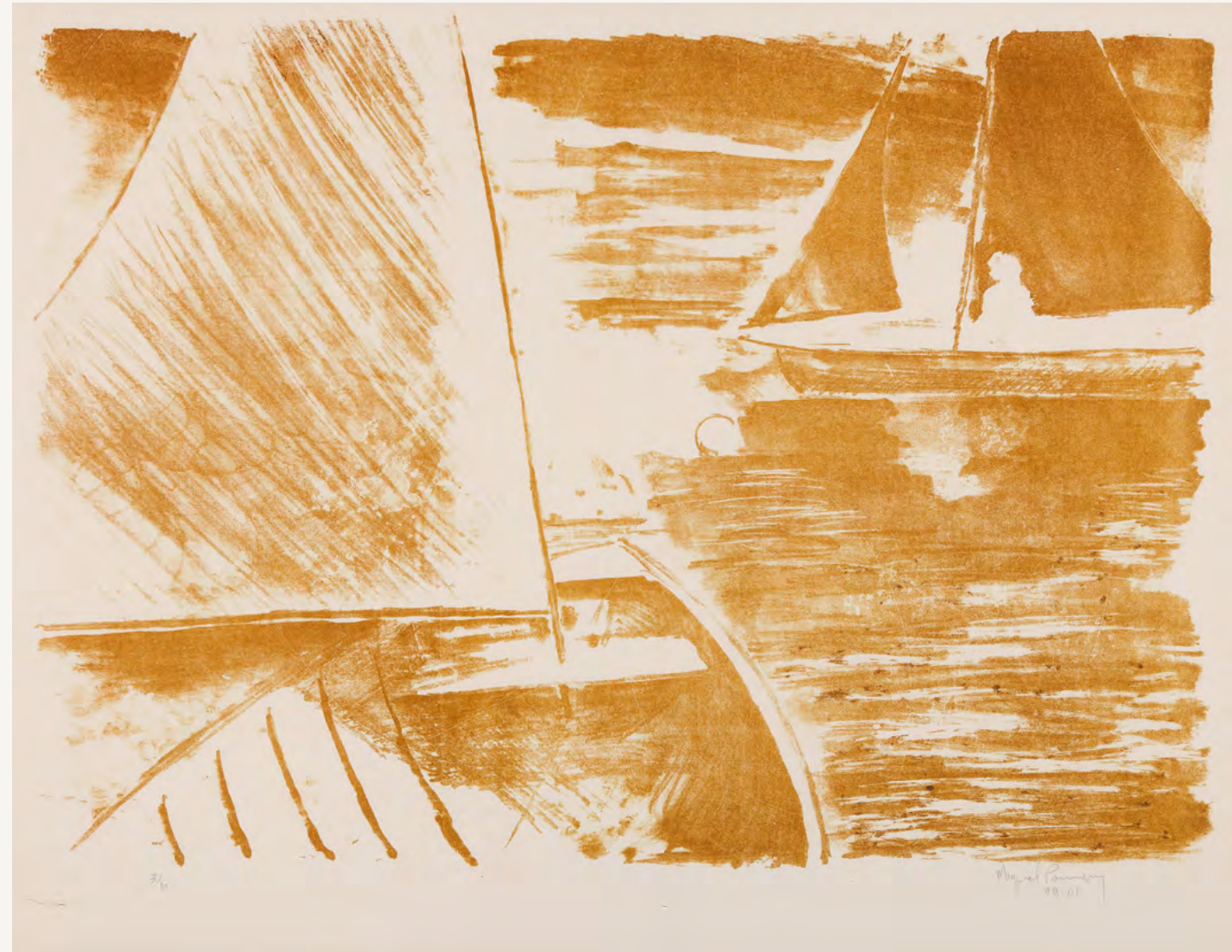
BEFORE ROADS BEGAN TO BE BUILT, CATBOATS WERE ALSO USED TO TRAVEL FROM ONE PART OF THE ISLAND TO ANOTHER.



Miguel Powery

MIGUEL POWERY IS A SELF-TAUGHT (INTUITIVE) PAINTER AND SCULPTOR..

LIKE A LOT OF CAYMANIAN ARTISTS, HIS WORK FOCUSES ON CAYMAN'S MARITIME HISTORY, CELEBRATING THE ISLAND'S DEEPLY ROOTED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SEA. IN THESE TWO EXAMPLES OF HIS ARTWORK, WE CAN SEE THE CAYMAN CATBOAT. THESE CATBOATS WERE VERY IMPORTANT FOR FISHERMEN TO CATCH TURTLES AND FOR TRANSPORT AROUND THE ISLAND.



Joanne Sibley

JOANNE SIBLEY'S ARTWORKS CAPTURE OUTDOOR SCENES OF CAYMAN AND WHAT LIFE LOOKED LIKE BEFORE CAYMAN BECAME MORE DEVELOPED. HER WORKS DISPLAY THE DAILY MARITIME LIFE OF CAYMANIANS.

HER WORKS ALSO SHOW HOW CAYMAN'S MARITIME HERITAGE CHANGED OVER TIME. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE A RISE IN TOURISM AND A FALL IN THE COUNTRY'S RELIANCE ON FISHING, THATCH ROPE TRADE AND OTHER MARITIME RELATED INDUSTRIES.



Randy Chollette

RANDY CHOLLETTE IS A SELF-TAUGHT (INTUITIVE) CAYMANIAN ARTIST.

MANY OF RANDY'S ARTWORKS SHOW CAYMANIAN HERITAGE IN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT, AND HOW TRADITIONS CAN CHANGE OVER TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, THESE TWO ARTWORKS SHOWING CATBOATS AND THE SEA CELEBRATE CAYMANIAN MARITIME HERITAGE.



Janet Walker

JANET WALKER'S ARTWORK CAN BE DESCRIBED AS REALIST ARTWORK. MANY OF HER WORKS WERE PAINTED OUTDOORS TO CAPTURE A REALISTIC VERSION OF THE SCENE (THIS IS CALLED PAINTING 'EN PLEIN AIR')

HER ARTWORKS DISPLAY TRADITIONAL SCENES OF CAYMAN AND ACTIVITIES FROM DAILY LIFE. THESE PAINTINGS CAN SHOW WHAT THE ISLAND USED TO LOOK LIKE, AND WHAT SORT OF ACTIVITIES WERE MORE POPULAR IN OUR MARITIME HISTORY. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THESE TWO PICTURES WE CAN SEE THERE ARE PEOPLE FISHING IN CATBOATS ON A BEACH.



Art Activity!