

NATIONAL GALLERY OF THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS: ART ON THE  
ROAD



Edrid Banks Jr., *Flower Tree*, 1971.

# Plants & Flowers



NATIONAL  
GALLERY  
CAYMAN ISLANDS

RAWLINSON  
& HUNTER

What Cayman plants  
and flowers can you  
name?



# Useful Plants: Silver Thatch Palm



Penny Clifford, *Silver Thatch Palm*, 2005.



**The Silver Thatch Palm is the National Tree of the Cayman Islands. It is called Silver Thatch Palm because it has silvery undersides. It is very strong and rot-resistant.**

**It was used to make rope, baskets, brooms and even shoe-straps for many years until synthetic rope became more popular.**



# Useful Plants: Rosemary and Ironwood



**Fragrant local rosemary was used to make brooms!**



**Super strong ironwood was used to make support posts for houses and other buildings**





# Decorative Plants: Orchids

**The Wild Banana Orchid is the National Flower of the Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands are the only place it is found in the whole world!**

**There are two varieties of the Wild Banana Orchid - a flower with white petals and purple lips on Grand Cayman and a flower with yellow petals on the Sister Islands.**

**The Wild Banana Orchid blooms during April and May. It is one of 26 orchid species found in Cayman.**





# Healing Plants

Local plants were used as an early form of medicine to treat illnesses.

Here are some native plants Caymanians used for healing!



Leaf of Life was drunk as a tea to treat coughs, colds and sore throats. People also used this plant to treat swellings or infections.



Here is a painting by Cayman artist Kathryn Elphinstone showing Leaf of Life.



Lemongrass, or Fevergrass as it is called in Cayman, was used to treat fevers, headaches, poorly stomachs and inflammation.



# Teresa Grimes

"Banana Leaves", c. 1990



Grimes is noted for her depictions of the Caymanian landscape and local flora, and this particular work captures the verdant foliage of a stand of Banana trees.

Grimes' emphasis is on naturalistic detail - a feature she would move away from in later abstract oil paintings.



# Helene Schindler

"Crotons", 1993



**Helene Schindler's work adopts the style of nineteenth-century botanical studies in this still life of a croton plant. Schindler chooses to focus on the unusual pattern of yellow and green that characterises this broad-leafed plant - a common decorative shrub in gardens across the island.**



# Chris Mann

## "Red Mangroves I & II", 2005



**Red Mangroves are one of three mangroves found in the Cayman Islands. They are usually seen closest to the shoreline.**

**Mangroves protect our shorelines from erosion, store carbon emissions in their soil, slow down storm surges and are an important habitat and nursery for young species. They are very important to protect!**

**Chris Mann painted Mangroves I & II soon after Hurricane Ivan decimated the mangroves surrounding his home in South Sound.**





Chris Mann, *Mangrove Sunset*



Chris Mann, *Swarts*







# Jan Barwick

## "Picking Breadfruit", c. 1988



**Breadfruit has been a mainstay of the Caymanian and Caribbean diet for centuries. In this image, inspired by a photograph from the Cayman Islands National Archives, Barwick captures a typical Caymanian family, imagined circa 1930, gathering breadfruit for sustenance and using the silver thatch basket for "backing" produce home.**



# Edrid Banks, Jr.

## "Flower Tree", 1971



**This vibrant painting of a Poinciana tree in front of a traditional stone wall is a strong example of Edrid Banks' intuitive practice. Although deaf from the age of seven, Banks loved music, singing and visual arts.**

**Poinciana trees come in different colours - red, orange, yellow - and can be seen all over Cayman. They make great shade trees and their pods have been used culturally to make art or music with.**



**Art Activity!**