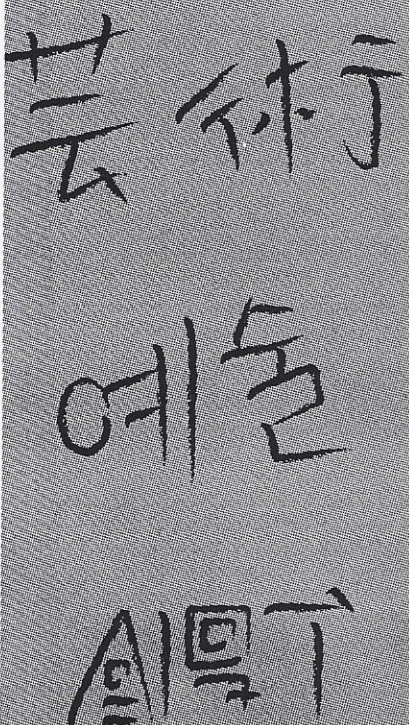


ConversASIAN in Cayman's gallery

The National Gallery
of the Cayman Islands



The National Gallery's exhibition 'ConversASIAN in Cayman' that will open on 16 September, will feature contemporary works by Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese artists. Through their work each of the represented artists addresses issues of group or individual identity. Toshihiro Sakuma (Japan) and Hoang Duong Cam (Vietnam) explore the relationship between society and the individual. Yang Zhenzhong (China) and Fumiko Nozawa (Japan/USA) document a sense of displacement in urban life. Yeong Gill Kim (Korea/USA) and Sung-Ah Chang (Korea) present a new perspective on Asian sensibilities. Zhang Hongtu (China/USA) continues his appropriation of cultural icons. No matter how specific the images are the issues addressed in this exhibition all deal with universal themes that can be related to our own environment.

National Gallery director Leslie Bigelman, who is responsible for bringing the exhibition to the islands says,

"These are issues that face all of us in the Cayman Islands as well as the rest of the world. As we in the Cayman Islands move into a global society we retain our desire to hold on to aspects of our own cultural heritage that make us who we are. These Asian artists demonstrate that the use of these conflicts and contradictions within us can be a vital source of expression."

She continues, "Today, in their own countries, Asians enjoy and celebrate a vibrant hybrid culture. This exhibition explores the universal ways in which artists can take and utilise the parts of their own cultural heritage which remain as important aspects of their unconscious connection to their past, and incorporate these deep thoughts and ideas into contemporary forms of expression."

"Through this Asian-Caribbean cultural interaction, the National Gallery hopes to highlight to our viewers the possibility of incorporating new insights and an innovative process into our own Caymanian cultural development," explains Mrs Bigelman. "Our ever-

changing culture, like many around the world, can find its OWN expression through contemporary art forms while retaining the value and integrity of who and what we were and are and can and will be. ...Wherever they resettle, Asian artists seem to be able to hold on to this vital connection of who they are. We respect this and wish to emulate their methodology."

This exhibition which is sponsored by the Dart Foundation, Coutts (Cayman) Ltd. and the Goldstone family, will be the first of its kind for Cayman. Speaking on its behalf, guest curator Miyako Yoshinaga, the founding director of M.Y. Art Prospects in New York, commented, "The National Gallery of the Cayman Islands is to be commended for creating this forum for Asian artists to share their vision with the people of the Cayman Islands. I hope this will open up opportunities for further artistic and cultural dialogue."

The exhibition will run from 16 September until 23 December. For information contact the National Gallery at 945 8111