

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Welcome to the 2018 Bermuda Biennial, *What We Share*. Now in its 13th iteration, the Biennial continues to be an important platform for Bermuda's contemporary art. Occurring every two years, the Bermuda Biennial exhibition is juried by international curators and underpinned by a focused education programme, lecture series, and public art initiatives. We are immensely grateful to Bacardi Limited, which, once again, is the title sponsor of this year's Bermuda Biennial. Bacardi's continued dedication to this exhibition supports Bermuda's contemporary artists in local and international contexts.

I would like to thank Dr. Sajni Tolaram, Professor of English and Film Studies at Bermuda College, for suggesting this year's 2018 Biennial Theme, *What We Share*. Dr. Tolaram said, "*What We Share* offers a range for artistic consideration—that which is uplifting along with the spectrum of brooding, heavier elements. With such a theme, it is possible to be broad, or to specify its contexts. *Share*, in the context of human dynamics, offers a rich field of various, even contrasting qualities in the human experience." As Dr. Tolaram indicated, this Biennial exhibition presents a broad cross-section of interpretations explored through a range of formal elements, concepts, and materiality.

Indeed, the theme has become a national theme for Bermuda in 2018! The BNG is delighted that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) asked to partner with BNG to use the 2018 Bermuda Biennial theme, *What We Share*, for the Bermuda Heritage Month and Bermuda Day themes. Connecting, sharing and partnering, on an institutional, governmental and personal level is important as a means to stride forward together. Thank you to the DCCA for your vision and for your additional support of the Biennial programme and public art initiatives.

An important part of the Bermuda Biennial exhibition is the engagement of the international contemporary curators. This year we are grateful to have guest curators, Isolde Breilmaier and Melissa Messina, who brought a wealth of knowledge and international expertise to the exhibition. Isolde Brielmaier is the Executive Director & Curator for The Oculus at Westfield World Trade Center and is Curator-at-Large of The Tang Museum. She is also the Assistant Professor of Critical Studies at New York University. Melissa Messina is an Independent Curator based in the U.S. and Curator of the Mildred Thompson Estate; and, most recently, was the Artistic Director of Flux Projects in Atlanta, Georgia. They have worked closely with Bermuda National Gallery to create a challenging and inspiring exhibition that reflects



the theme in a myriad of ways which promotes discussions on contemporary culture and expressions.

This year's Bermuda Biennial exhibition, *What We Share*, has been developed with a vibrant public programme. A series of local and international talks, lectures, and public art initiatives has been designed to further conversations around art and culture that are central to Bermuda's community of artists, designers, architects, writers, and performers. This collaborative programme is a new direction for the Bermuda Biennial exhibition and one that we plan to evolve over the next few years.

Biennials are worldwide exhibitions; and, as a member of the International Biennial Association, Bermuda National Gallery is proud to play a role in the global conversation on contemporary art and culture. Thank you to the Trustees of Bermuda National Gallery for believing in the importance of the Bermuda Biennial exhibition, to all the artists who submitted artwork for the exhibition, to Isolde Brielmaier and Melissa Messina for their curatorial vision. In particular, thank you to Bacardi Limited for their continued support in promoting the vitality of Bermuda's contemporary art and culture.

This is an exciting time in Bermuda as there are many organizations and artists presenting projects and exhibitions running concurrently with the BNG

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2018 Bermuda Biennial, *What We Share*. To see more information on Bermuda's art, please visit the BNG website or social media. I invite the local community and international visitors of Bermuda to be a part of this rich dialogue on art and culture.

Sophie Cressall

Curator