

BERMUDA BIENNIAL 2020: Let Me Tell You Something

Sponsored by Bacardi Limited

Dates of Bermuda Biennial 2020

May – December 2020

About the Bermuda Biennial

The Bermuda Biennial exhibition is a platform for the contemporary art scene in Bermuda. Started in 1994, the exhibition continues to represent the vitality and creativity of local artists. The Bermuda Biennial provides an opportunity for local artists to engage in an internationally juried process, which strives to represent the excellence of Bermuda's contemporary art. Since 1998, Bacardi Limited has generously been the Bermuda Biennial's Signature Sponsor. Since 2015 the Bermuda Biennial is a member organization of the International Biennial Association, raising this important exhibition's profile. 2020 marks the Bermuda Biennial's 14th iteration.

The Bermuda Biennial will:

- present artwork that is well-considered and well-executed;
- engage established international jurors, both independent and from prominent art institutions;
- be structured around a theme;
- be on exhibition at Bermuda National Gallery and, submissions dependent, the City of Hamilton;
- serve as an educational resource, be a platform for programmes on art, culture and dialogue; and
- be archived in a catalogue.

Theme for 2020 Bermuda Biennial: Let Me Tell You Something

The theme this year, **Let Me Tell You Something**, is inspired by a quote from American author and Pulitzer Prize winner, Toni Morrison.

"You are your own stories and therefore free to imagine and experience what it means to be human [...] The theme you choose may change or simply elude you, but being your own story means you can always choose the tone. It also means that you can invent the language to say who you are and what you mean." Toni Morrison

<http://www.humanity.org/voices/commencements/toni-morrison-wellesley-college-speech-2004>

Jurors

Melissa Messina

Melissa Messina is an Independent Curator and Curator of the Mildred Thompson Estate. Her exhibitions, site-responsive projects and public programs have been presented throughout the U.S. and abroad. In 2018, she was the consulting curator on the exhibition "Mildred Thompson: Radiation Explorations and Magnetic Fields" at Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, and co-curated "Mildred Thompson: Against the Grain" at the New Orleans Museum of Art. In 2017, Messina co-curated "Magnetic Fields, Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to Today," an intergenerational exhibition celebrating abstraction by black women artists that toured from Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C., and the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Art, FL. In 2016-17 Messina was the guest curator for the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, VA, and served as the first Artistic Director of Flux Projects in Atlanta, GA.

Melissa was formerly the Interim Executive Director and Senior Curator of the SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA; the National Program Director for ArtTable, NY; and a founding staff member and then guest curator at the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum. She is the recipient of a Creative Time Warhol Foundation Art Writers Grant, the Camille Billops and James V. Hatch Fellowship at the Stuart A. Rose Library at Emory University, and will be a Fall 2019 Tyson Family Fellow at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR. Messina was also the co-curator of the 2018 Bermuda Biennial.

Kimberli Gant

Kimberli Gant, PhD is the McKinnon Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, VA. She was previously the Mellon Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Arts of Global Africa at the Newark Museum, in Newark, NJ. She has held curatorial positions at UT's Warfield Center for African & African Diaspora Studies (2013), The Contemporary Austin (2012), and the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art (MoCADA) in Brooklyn, New York(2005-10).

She has curated numerous exhibitions including Wondrous Worlds: Art & Islam Through Time & Place(2016),De-Luxe(2012),There is No Looking Glass Here: Wide Sargasso Sea Re-Imagined(2010), and Johannesburg to New York(2008). Kimberli received her PhD in Art History from the University of Texas Austin(2017), and holds both a MA and BA in Art History from Columbia University (2009)and Pitzer College (2002).

Kimberli's scholarly work is published in academic books, such as Anywhere But Here: Black Intellectuals in the Atlantic World and Beyond (2015), art publications such as NKA: Journal of Contemporary African Art, Art Lies and African Arts, and exhibition catalogues for The Newark Museum, The Contemporary Austin, the Studio Museum of Harlem, MoCADA, Paris Photo, and the Centre for Contemporary Art Lagos.

Application Guidelines

Deadline for Application: Thursday, February 1, 2020; 4:00 pm

Eligibility Requirements: PLEASE READ CLOSELY

- All applicants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- Applications are open to all Bermudians, residing in Bermuda or living overseas;
- Applications are open to all foreign nationals who have been resident on the Island for at least six months during the preceding two years (January 1, 2018 through February 2020);
- Artwork must have been completed between January 2018 – February 2020;
- Artwork MUST NOT have been previously exhibited on the Island;
- Artwork should be available for viewing by the jurors the month of February 2020.

Number of Submissions:

Artists are invited to submit up to five (5) artworks/ proposals for the exhibition.

Submission Requirements:

- A non-refundable application fee of \$40.00;
- A two-page application form completed in full and signed;
- one disc / memory stick that includes:
 - 1) digital images of artwork;
 - 2) proposal (if applicable);
 - 3) short biography;
 - 4) artist statement;
 - 5) black & white headshot.

1) Digital images:

- one digital image for each submission;
- each digital image needs to be JPEG digital format, 360 dpi minimum, and of printable quality from 2 MB to 5 MB in size;
- each digital image given a title (ie. landscape1.jpeg) that corresponds to the title on the application form;
- the BNG takes no responsibility for the handling of discs/ memory sticks and, unless otherwise notified, will be kept in the BNG archives.

2) Site-specific project proposal details (if applicable):

Artists may submit site-specific project proposals. Locations to be considered include: the Bermuda National Gallery and within the City of Hamilton.

A proposal represents a submission and must include:

- a) a clear written outline of the concept;
- b) a detailed graphic plans of the fabrication and installation;
- c) a clear illustration of the proposal, through scale model, drawings and/or JPEG digital images; and
- d) clear location selection.

3) Biography: 250 words or less; listing only: Name, Birth Year/ Country, Lives & Works, Education, Selected Solo Exhibitions, Selected Group Exhibitions. See model on page 5.

4) Artist Statement: about the work submitted for consideration (300 words). See model on page 5.

5) Headshot: high-resolution black and white image.

MODEL BIOGRAPHY

Jackie Smith
Born 1968, Bermuda
Lives and works in Bermuda

Education

1990 London School of Art and Design, London, UK

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2012 *Title of Exhibition*, Name of Gallery, Location

Selected Group Exhibition

2018 *Bermuda Biennial: What We Share*, Bermuda National Gallery

MODEL ARTIST STATEMENT

From *ARC Magazine*, issue 6, Sept. 2012

Fragile Suburbia – Gabriel Ramos (Photographer), Puerto Rico/Florida

My current body of photographs portrays small-scale diorama structures of urban/suburban neighbourhoods constructed out of paper. The inspiration for these is drawn from my childhood memory and from my bicultural heritage. The photographs are a synthesis of my personal blend of Puerto Rican and American cultural perspectives. As a result of the conflated cultures within the constructed image, I created an imaginary space both within and beyond the photograph. The road is a vestige or a representation of a journey and its presence is symbolic of life's many trajectories.

The concepts of fragility and the ephemeral quality of a home are some of the important factors in my process and my artwork. In the creation of each photograph I am a scavenger and editor of light, composition, form and colour within the constructed environment. The delicacy and frailty of the materials are two important factors in my work, and they foreground the passage of time through the instability of the medium used.

Notes

\$40.00 fee: Application fee covers administration costs. Please make cheques payable to the Bermuda Fine Arts Trust. Visa/Mastercard accepted.

Images will be used during the jury selection process and for reproduction in the catalogue if your work is selected, therefore, please supply high resolution images (300 dpi minimum).

If you plan to submit a film or installation piece, please contact the Curator before you submit your application to clarify if the proposal is possible.

Curator contact: Sophie Cressall: curator@bng.bm: (441) 295-9428

Artwork by Bermudian artists living overseas will be juried by digital image only. Shipment of artwork is the sole responsibility of the artist.
All applicants will be notified in writing of the jurors' decision.

Artworks from all disciplines will be considered.

Bermuda Biennial 2020 Application Form

Name of Artist: _____
(as to appear in catalogue)

Year of Birth: _____ Nationality(ies): _____

Current Resident (please circle): YES NO

If not Bermudian please provide dates of residence in Bermuda: _____

- (Must have been a resident for at least 6 months during the period January 1, 2018 through February 2020)

Telephone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

Address: _____

Parish/ City: _____ Country/ Postal code: _____

Number of works submitted: _____ (maximum 5).

NB. All images of artwork must be in a high-resolution digital format: JPEG, 350 dpi minimum, of printable quality from 2 MB to 5 MB in size.

Application Checklist

- Application form, including artwork details, completed and signed
 - \$40 application fee, cheques made payable to the Bermuda Fine Arts Trust
- On One Disc/ Memory Stick:
- One digital high-resolution image for each submission with title and up to 5 images to clearly articulate a proposal.
 - Biography, typed in a Word document on disc, 250 words max.
 - Artist statement typed in Word document on disc, 300 words max.
 - Artist headshot, black & white.

All images, texts, and headshot should be submitted on one disc/ memory stick

PLEASE COMPLETE ARTWORK DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE

ARTWORK DETAILS
Bermuda Biennial 2020
Let Me Tell You Something

Submit with Completed Application Form

1. **Title:** _____

Date artwork was completed: _____ Medium: _____

Size of Artwork /Proposal = Height _____ inches x Width _____ inches x Depth _____ inches

Insurance Value: \$ _____

Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of owner (if not the artist)

2. **Title:** _____

Date artwork was completed: _____ Medium: _____

Size of Artwork /Proposal = Height _____ inches x Width _____ inches x Depth _____ inches

Insurance Value: \$ _____

Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of owner (if not the artist)

3. **Title:** _____

Date artwork was completed: _____ Medium: _____

Size of Artwork /Proposal = Height _____ inches x Width _____ inches x Depth _____ inches

Insurance Value: \$ _____

Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of owner (if not the artist)

4. **Title:** _____

Date artwork was completed: _____ Medium: _____

Size of Artwork /Proposal = Height _____ inches x Width _____ inches x Depth _____ inches

Insurance Value: \$ _____

Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of owner (if not the artist)

5. **Title:** _____

Date artwork was completed: _____ Medium: _____

Size of Artwork /Proposal = Height _____ inches x Width _____ inches x Depth _____ inches

Insurance Value: \$ _____

Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of owner (if not the artist)

The artist agrees that Bermuda National Gallery may reproduce the submitted artworks in Bermuda National Gallery publications, publicity and film, for marketing and educational purposes.

Signed _____ **Date** _____