BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

A STUDY IN LIGHT & COLOUR

SELECTIONS FROM THE DAVID L. WHITE COLLECTION

01

The David L. White Collection is one of the Bermuda National Gallery's most important permanent collections. It includes 60 artworks by American Impressionists, from which 21 have been selected for this exhibition. Painted during the first half of the 20th century, the works are a study in light and colour, capturing the open landscapes and languid sun-drenched days of life in old Bermuda.

A large number of artists visited Bermuda during this time, mostly from the East Coast of the United States, lured by mild winters and the island's unique quality of light. Many came from artist colonies such as those in Provincetown, Massachusetts and Old Lyme, Connecticut. Most had studied under the French Impressionists — either in Paris, such as Will Howe Foote, E. Ambrose Webster and John Lavalle, or directly under those who had trained in France.

Painting 'en plein air' (in the open air), we are taken back to a quieter time when people got around either on foot or by bicycle and travelled the length of the island by horse and cart. The USA, by contrast, was rapidly urbanising and Bermuda provided a respite from the increasingly fast pace of life back home.

An affinity for colour and the language of light is at the core of the exhibition. This is evident in the bright shades and bold brushwork that dominate the two paintings by E. Ambrose Webster, and in Carl William Broemel's use of densely layered watercolour in *Bermuda Cottage* (1930), in which the wildness of the landscape is framed by the sharp white roof-line as it meets the deep blue of the horizon.

From the warm glow of early evening elegantly captured in Will Howe Foote's *Old Bermuda House* (c.1917), to the playful vibrancy of the crisp turquoise waters in Stanley Pierpont's *Bathers on Bermuda Beach* (c.1905-1925), luminosity is every-where. Colour often appears as an accent — in the bright shade of *The Green Door* by Stanley Wingate Woodward (c.1950), in the tropical foliage surrounding the bakery in *Crow Lane* by Frank Carson (c.1932) and in Rupert Lovejoy's *Bermuda House* (c.1925), where the afternoon light is refracted through the branches of a nearby cedar tree, turning the cottage's coral walls a rich purple in its wake.

People too are woven through the landscape – a man gently dozes by the water in Adolph Treidler's *Man Sleeping on Bale, Albuoy's Point* (1936), families

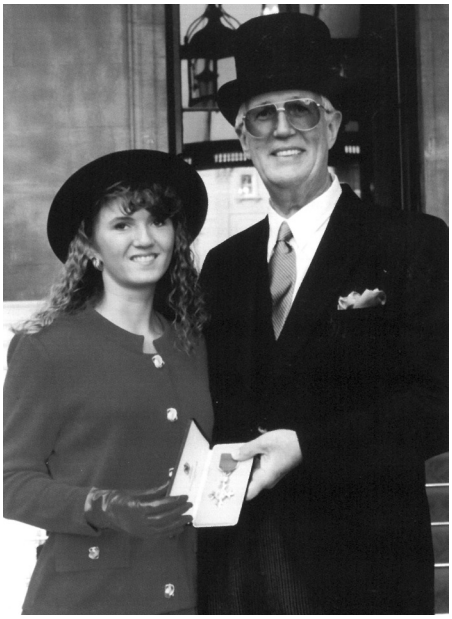
flow out from church on a Sunday morning (*After the Service* by John Lavalle, 1950) and fishermen bring in their catch in *Unknown Bay* by Frank Carson (c.1932); the slower pace of life encapsulated in Clarence Scott White's *St. Georges* (1925), in which a couple carefully make their way along the shaded side of an empty sun dappled street.

02

DAVID L. WHITE, OBE

David L. White (Bermudian, 1933-2013) was one of Bermuda's most passionate, and prolific, art collectors. When the Bermuda National Gallery opened its doors in 1992, White donated an etching by influential American artist James Whistler to the Gallery's permanent collection, along with two paintings by the Russian-born artist Erté. These would go on to be joined by a further 80 works generously donated to BNG throughout his lifetime.

Editor of the Royal Gazette from 1976 to 1998, White served as President of the Bermuda National Trust from 1993 to 1996 before joining the Bermuda National Gallery as Chair of the Board of Trustees, a position he held from 1997 through to 2008. He was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1997



03

by Queen Elizabeth II, in recognition of his services to journalism and the community. In 2010 White was given the Patron Award by the Bermuda Arts Council for his contribution to the Bermuda National Gallery.

BROCHURE ARTWORK & IMAGES

01 **Stanley Pierpont**
British or American, nd

Bathers on Bermuda Beach
c.1905-1925
Oil on board
11.5 x 13 in.

Collection of Bermuda National Gallery
Gift of David L. White, OBE

02 **John Lavalle**
American, 1896–1971

After the Service
1950
Watercolour on paper
17.5 x 23.5 in.

Collection of Bermuda National Gallery
Gift of David L. White, OBE

03 David White and daughter Leslie Ann after he received the OBE at Buckingham Palace in 1997.

Exhibition curated by Eve Godet Thomas

Brochure design: Linda Weinraub, Fluent

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