

## JURORS' STATEMENT

We, the jurors of the Bacardi Limited Biennial 2008, would first like to extend our special thanks to BNG Director Laura Gorham for inviting us to participate in this important capacity to serve this fine tradition. Thanks also to Chairman, Gary L. Phillips for his intelligent and gracious hospitality and acting curator Sophie Cressall for her exceedingly competent intensity and organisation. Your dual participation has made our joint endeavour go ever so smoothly and enjoyably forward. We would also like to thank Bacardi Limited for their long-term signature support of this important event, and Royal Caribbean for their associate sponsorship – surely it enriches the cultural life ten-fold.

The pursuit of every true artist is one that takes much more than talent. It takes heart, mind and soul, which is to say, conviction. We, the Jury of the 2008 Biennial, send our heartfelt applause to all the artists who submitted. It is clear that you have put so much of yourselves into this work and that has inspired us to approach our task as jurors with utmost seriousness. We have put our knowledge, expertise and experience in our decades of work in the professional art world to use and it is that which aided us as we made our final selections.

In the end, we have finalised our selections based on the criteria of those artists who demonstrated a sustained consistency and quality. We have particularly focused on the artists that have not hesitated beyond comfortable bound-

aries. Artists whose work has led them to a place outside comfortable boundaries – a place that may even seem “foreign” to them. It has been our experience that it is such artists who “go out on a limb” create art that comes from a place deeper within themselves. Far beyond competence and ego, it is a place that all viewers will relate to aesthetically and soulfully.

We believe that we have chosen the artists that best meet these criteria. While choices had to be and were made, we do hope that ALL the artists who submitted will continue to dedicatedly pursue their art, not lose heart and submit to the next Biennial. Thank you for the pleasure of giving us the opportunity to experience your artistic endeavors, culture and beautiful landscape. It has been a great pleasure that we will always remember.

Finally – our Hearty Applause to those we have chosen – we salute your work. Your inclusion in this year's Biennial demonstrates the accomplishment of your art – its ability to touch, motivate and inspire. We are proud to present it to the public in this distinguished arena.

## MARK KRISCO AND FRANKLIN SIRMANS