



BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

For immediate release

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Biennial 2008: Call for entries

Hamilton, Bermuda, October 4, 2007 — The Bermuda National Gallery is pleased to formally invite entries for the Bacardi Limited Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary Bermuda Art.

With distinguished international jurors selecting from recent work submitted by contemporary local artists, the Bacardi Biennial has become Bermuda's most anticipated arts event, providing a snapshot of the Island's artistic achievement and development. The BNG is delighted to announce that this year's jurors will be Mark Krisco, artist, curator, and instructor at the Art Institute of Chicago; and Franklin Sirmans, Curator of Modern and Contemporary art at the Menil Collection, Houston.

The Biennial, which will run from April 25-September 5, 2008, is open to all Bermudian artists on the Island or overseas as well as foreign nationals who have been resident in Bermuda for at least six months during the competition period (January 1, 2006 through December 2007). Submitted work must have been completed between January 1, 2006 and December, 2007.

Artists may submit up to five pieces and applications must be made by 4 p.m. on Monday, December 10, 2007. Works must be submitted for jury viewing by February 13. Full entry details and an application form are available on the BNG's website at www.bng.bm. The entry fee is \$35. The 2006 Biennial attracted 263 pieces from 68 artists, of whom 50 were represented in the final exhibition by 83 works.

Laura T. Gorham, Director of the BNG, said: "Since its inception in 1994, the Bermuda Biennial has grown in artistic scope and public appreciation. The exhibition has become truly representative of the best the Island has to offer in the contemporary arena, reflecting the achievements of Bermudians and resident artists of all ages, race and backgrounds.

“Since 1998, Bacardi Limited has generously been the event’s Signature Sponsor, ensuring its continued high standard, and we thank them again for their wonderful support which has enabled us to again bring in two distinguished overseas jurors in Mark Krisko and Franklin Sirmans.”

In addition to being an instructor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Mr. Krisko is also curator of the Dr. Martin and Francey Gecht Collection. Previous exhibitions he has curated include: “Graphic Modernism”, Art Institute of Chicago; “The Road to Rome: Paintings by Father Jerome Tupa”, Pope John Paul II Cultural Centre, Washington, D.C. and Chicago; and the Kohl Children’s Museum, Wilmette. As an artist he has exhibited at Anne Loucks Gallery, Glencoe, Illinois and the Gescheidle Gallery, Lyons Wier, Chicago.

He has contributed to the following publications: edited and Graphic Modernism: Selections from the Francey and Dr. Martin Gecht Collection; The Road to Rome: A Modern Pilgrimage, Paintings and Text by Father Jerome Tupa.

Prior to taking his present position at the Menil Collection, Mr. Sirmans mounted exhibitions as an independent curator at museums in Europe, Asia and the U.S., including the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Comune di Milano in Italy and the Museum Villa Stuck in Munich. Some of his notable projects include “Basquiat” (Brooklyn Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; 2005); “Make it Now: New Sculpture in New York” (Sculpture Center, 2005); and “One Planet Under a Groove: Contemporary Art and Hip Hop” (Bronx Museum of Art; Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; 2001–2003).

He has taught art history - most recently at Maryland Institute College of Art and Princeton University – and has written widely on art and culture for such publications as Art in America, The New York Times, Essence and Newsweek International.

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About the Bermuda National Gallery: Opened in 1992 and located in the City Hall & Arts Centre in Hamilton, the Bermuda National Gallery is both the home of Bermuda’s national art collection and the centre of the Island’s thriving arts scene. It is the Island’s leading art museum with a richly diverse exhibition programme of past and present works by local and international artists that reflects Bermuda’s varied artistic heritage and multicultural community. The Bermuda National Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. Admission free. For more details contact Director Laura Gorham on 441-295-9428, director@bng.bm or visit www.bng.bm.