



BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

For immediate release

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Sharon Wilson birthday gift for BNG

Hamilton, Bermuda, March 7, 2007 — The Bermuda National Gallery (BNG) will proudly celebrate 15 years of operation on March 15 and this week the museum received an early “birthday present” with the gift of a painting by one of Bermuda's most notable artists, Sharon Wilson.

Already on display at the BNG, the masterful painting of boys at prayer, entitled *Each in His Own Way* (2005) is a gift of Sharon Wilson and Arthur and Monica Jones to whom the BNG is most grateful.

The BNG is planning a number of special events next week to celebrate 15 years of “bringing the world of art to Bermuda and Bermuda's art to the world” and to announce some exciting plans for the future.

Next week's events include:

- A special lunchtime panel led by founding trustee Dr. Charles Zuill on the BNG's past, present and future.
- A ceremony dedicating the Par-La-Ville Sculpture Park in the memory of John Hinson Young II and Nelga Young
- An Anniversary Jazz Night featuring Bermudian singer Gita and the Tony Bari Trio

On **Wednesday, March 14**, Dr. Zuill will lead a panel taking a look at the BNG's founding, its first 15 years, and looking ahead the future. Members of the public are invited to come share their own views and memories. The event will be from 12.30-1.30 p.m. and tickets are \$5.00 (Free for BNG members)

Then on **Thursday, March 15** at 3 p.m. in a special ceremony in Par-La-Ville Park, the Corporation of Hamilton and the BNG will mark the 15th anniversary of the BNG's opening by

formally opening the Par-La-Ville Sculpture Park. The park will be dedicated to the memory of John Hinson Young II and Nelga Young who bequeathed their collection to the BNG in 2005.

Three sculptures from the Young Collection – Enzo Plazzotta’s balletic *Jeté*, American sculptor Berthold Schiwetz’s bronze *Praying Mantis Fountain*, and *Birds Of Flight*, a steel sculpture by Hungarian artist George Gach – are already installed in the park and will be joined by *Student*, a stone sculpture by Shona artist Jonothan Mhondorohuma of Zimbabwe. The recently acquired piece, from the BNG’s own collection, is the gift of BNG Trustee and renowned African art collector Dusty Hind and his wife Barbara O’Shaughnessy.

The ceremony will also honour 15 people who have played key roles in the BNG’s history and development by presenting them with special anniversary awards. A reception hosted at the Lemon Tree Café in the park will follow the presentations.

Following the reception, a special anniversary **Jazz Night** featuring popular singer Gita Blakeney Saltus, the BNG’s Development Director, and the Tony Bari Trio will be staged at the BNG (5.30-8.00 p.m.). Organised in association with Robert Mondavi, the evening will include champagne and hors d’oeuvres. Tickets \$25 (BNG Members \$15). There will be a cash bar.

Throughout the BNG’s anniversary celebrations, the public are invited to view the museum’s current Winter Exhibitions - New Acquisitions: Recent gifts to the Bermuda National Gallery; The Art of Drama: Kabuki Theatre through Japanese Woodblock Prints; the African Collection; European Collection and the Bermuda Collection. The Exhibitions continue to April 5, 2007.

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.