



BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

For immediate release

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**Biennial 2006 set to open Friday**

*83 works of art, 50 artists, 1 exhibition not to be missed*

***Hamilton, Bermuda, April 18, 2006*** — The Bermuda National Gallery is proud to announce the opening this week of the 7<sup>th</sup> **Bacardi Limited Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary Bermuda Art, presented in association with Island Construction Services.**

The Biennial, which opens to the public on Friday, April 21, features 83 diverse works from 50 equally diverse Bermudian and resident artists and includes video installations, conceptual works and sculptures, as well as paintings, drawings and photography. The final list of works was selected by an international jury from an entry of 263 works from 68 artists.

The distinguished international jurors for the 2006 Biennial were Dr. Annette Blaugrund, Director, National Academy Museum and School of Fine Art, New York; and Professor Moe Brooker, former professor at Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and presently Department Head of Basic Studies at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia where he also teaches painting.

In their juror's statement, they said: "As people who deal with art on a daily basis and who are exposed to art globally, we thought that the work we saw could have been presented anywhere in the world. While some paintings – especially the landscapes – reflected the local scene, most were not country-specific. Global access through improved electronic communications has united the art world.

"We saw a diversity of mediums, and a wide range of styles from the figurative and representational to the non-objective and abstract. The underlying theme we saw and experienced in meeting the artists was a passion for what they do, honesty, and integrity in use of materials, and talent."

The Biennial features work completed by Bermudian and resident artists between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2005. The exhibition 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.

In addition to established Bermuda artists like Graham Foster, Antoine Hunt, Sharon Wilson, Will Collieson, Kevin Morris, Vaughan and Amy Evans, Glen Wilks and Charles Zuill, the 2006 Biennial features first-time Biennial entries from well-known artists such as Rhona Emmerson, and Theresa Airey while new names to the Biennial include Norma Carr, Stella Shakerchi, Sue Rebello, Venessa George, Dougal McDonell and Dean Walker.

Laura T. Gorham, Director of the BNG, said: “The vision of the Bermuda National Gallery in staging the first Biennial in 1994 was to not only seek to recognise living Bermuda artists but also to encourage and challenge them to create work that could stand comparison with work on an international level.

“Since then, the Biennial has grown dramatically in artistic scope and public awareness and appreciation. It has become truly representative of the diversity the Island has to offer in the contemporary arts arena, reflecting the achievements of Bermudians and resident artists of all ages, race and backgrounds.”

She added: “We are once again grateful to have Bacardi Limited as our title sponsor for a fifth time and this year we are proud to welcome Island Construction Services as our new associate sponsor. Partnering with such generous and supportive sponsors means we are able to continue to maintain the high quality of this exhibition, its invited jurors, related educational programming and publications.”

BNG Curator David Mitchell said the logistics of hanging such a large exhibition had been as challenging as ever. He said: “While this Biennial includes its fair share of “traditional’ styles and subjects, with each exhibition we see an ongoing shift towards wider influences. For example, there are more photographers – 15 in all – in this Biennial than ever before and more elaborate installations. But regardless of the style, the overriding impression of this year’s Biennial entries is the consistently high quality of their execution.”

Mr. Mitchell will present a public walk-through of the Biennial on Wednesday, April 26 (12.30 p.m. \$5, free for BNG members).

Gaston Tano, Controller and Managing Director of Bacardi Limited commented: “At Bacardi, we understand the value of crafting enduring legacies that span the test of time, stimulate our senses, and feed our imagination. From creating masterpiece buildings to building quality premium brands, we understand the importance of upholding a tradition of excellence. Therefore, to the organisers of the Biennial, we extend our congratulations on your continued resolve to stimulate excellence in art by inspiring Bermuda artists with this well-executed exhibition.”

Zane DeSilva, President and CEO of Island Construction Services Ltd., said: “Island Construction Services Ltd. have long recognized the importance of the arts in recording and defining Bermuda's past, present and future. There is no better way to express our support than assisting Bermuda's premier exhibition of local art.”

The Biennial continues through September 1. The BNG is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. Admission is free.

The full list of selected artists is:

Theresa Airey	Lee Finch	Heather McDonald	Caroline Troncosi
Charles Anderson	Graham Foster	Ian McDonald-Smith	Otto Trott
Meredith Andrews	Frances Furbert	Dougal McDonell	Nancy Hutchings Valentine
Norma Carr	Vanessa C George	Kevin Morris	Martha Vaughn
William Colliesson	Malcom Greenough	Elizabeth Mulderig	Barbara (Lines) Verdie
Libby Cook-Toppan	Shelly Hamill	Jill Amos-Raine	Dean Walker
James Cooper	Margie Harriott	Sue Rebello	Marsha Wiggins
Dan Dempster	Katherine Harriott	Lisa Rego	Glen Wilks
Frank Dublin	Joyce Joell- Hayden	Bryan Ritchie	Judy Wong
Rhona Emmerson	Scott Hill	Stella Shakerchi	Sharon Wilson
Vaughn Evans	Antoine A.R Hunt	Edwin M.E Smith	Charles Zuill
Amy Evans	Cynthia Kirkwood	Alan Smith	
Kendra Ezekiel	Peter Lapsley	Amanda Temple	

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**Note to editors**

***About the Bermuda National Gallery:***

*The Bermuda National Gallery (BNG) is Bermuda's art museum. Established in 1992 by the Bermuda Fine Art Trust Act of 1982, The Bermuda National Gallery was created with a mission to promote, benefit and advance the visual art in Bermuda through creating a collection of significant artworks both from Bermuda and worldwide, and a facility in which to care for, research and interpret these works for the public. The BNG's goals are excellence, education and bringing the community together to share in the finest accomplishments via an interwoven programme of exhibitions, permanent collections, educational programming and cultural entertainment. The BNG is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. Admission is free. For more details contact Director Laura Gorham on 441-295-9428, [director@bng.bm](mailto:director@bng.bm) or visit [www.bng.bm](http://www.bng.bm).*