



BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

For immediate release

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“Jeté” installed as Sculpture Park takes shape

Hamilton, Bermuda, February 2, 2007 — The Corporation of Hamilton took a major step in the creation of a public Sculpture Park in the heart of Hamilton when “*Jeté*”, a life-size bronze of international ballet star David Wall by Italian sculptor Enzo Plazzotta, was installed today in Par-La-Ville Park.

Part of the recent bequest to the Bermuda National Gallery by John Hinson Young II and Nelga Young, it depicts the dancer David Wall, former Principal dancer with the Royal Ballet and now Principal Repetiteur with English National Ballet, in a leap known as a *jeté*. Another cast of the sculpture is on the Millbank at Westminster in London, England.

The sculpture, created in 1975, is the second from the Young Collection to be placed in the park, following the installation of American sculptor Berthold Schiwetz’s bronze *Preying Mantis Fountain* last year. Together they form the basis of Bermuda’s first Sculpture Park, a joint project between the Corporation of Hamilton and the Bermuda National Gallery (BNG) that will eventually form part of a city-wide Public Sculpture Trail.

The Sculpture Park will be officially opened at a ceremony on March 15 to mark the 15th anniversary of the Bermuda National Gallery, which opened on March 15, 1992.

The project reflects the vision of the late John Hinson Young II and Nelga to create a “museum without walls” at their former Lantana Cottage Colony in Somerset. It was their wish that the major sculptures in the Collection be displayed publicly so that they may be shared and enjoyed by future generations of Bermudians and visitors. Nine outdoor sculptures were part of the Young Collection and the majority of them will be placed in the park. In addition, a Shona stone sculpture from Zimbabwe which will be part of the BNG’s New Acquisitions show which opens at City Hall next Wednesday, will be placed in the park after the show closes on April 5.

Mayor Sutherland Madeiros said: “The installation of *Jeté* and the establishment of the Sculpture Park is just the first step in promoting multicultural art throughout the city. Great cities are often defined by their public art and the pieces donated by the Youngs complement existing public

sculptures by such talented Bermudian artists as Desmond Fountain, Bill Ming and Chesley Trott. Indeed, the Corporation has commissioned Mr. Trott to create a sculpture commemorating the Theatre Boycott, which will stand outside City Hall.”

He added: “This project not only fulfills the dream of the Youngs but also my predecessor, the late Jay Bluck. As a founding trustee of the BNG, Jay had a lifelong passion for the arts and this park was a project dear to his heart. I am delighted that we have been able to make that dream a reality.

Moving the sculpture from its former home at Lantana was no easy task – the base alone weighs 5,800 pounds. A corporation team led by Stephen DeSilva masterminded the siting and installation in consultation with BNG curator, David Mitchell.

Laura T. Gorham, Director of the BNG said: “We are proud and delighted that with the help of the Corporation we have been able to begin realising John Young’s dream of a ‘museum without walls’ in Hamilton. Art should be accessible to everyone and we believe this is just the start of something very exciting for public art in Bermuda and the City of Hamilton in particular. It is something the whole community can enjoy and take pride in.”

The Youngs gave a second Plazzotta sculpture, *The Dancer*, to the BNG in their bequest. Another sculpture from the Collection, George Lundeen’s *The Storybooks*, has already become a much-loved fixture on the City Hall portico.

About Enzo Plazzotta:

Enzo Plazzotta was born in Mestre, near Venice, in 1921 and died in 1981 after having worked in London as a sculptor for more than half his life. He always maintained his links with Italy and also had a studio at Pietrasanta in Tuscany.

Initially a student of architecture and sculpture he decided to specialize in sculpture and studied at the Accademia di Brera in Milan under Giacomo Manzù. World War II, in which he became a Partisan leader near Lago Maggiore in Northern Italy, interrupted his studies. After the war Plazzotta took up sculpture again and decided to make London his home.

He gradually established himself as a portrait sculptor but found this field rather limiting and preferred to experiment with his growing fascination for movement, developing techniques for conveying it in such diverse subjects as dance, horses and the human form. Fonteyn, Nerina and Dowell, Park and Wall were among the many dancers who modeled for him.

His works are held in leading public collections around the world, including The Vatican, Rome; The Hermitage, Lausanne; and The Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane.

For more about Enzo Plazzotta visit: http://www.plazzotta.co.uk/plazzotta_the_sculptor.htm

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.**