



BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

For immediate release

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## **Sculpture Garden opening highlights BNG's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

***Hamilton, Bermuda, March 15, 2007*** — The Mayor of Hamilton, Sutherland Madeiros, today officially opened the Sculpture Garden in Par-La-Ville Park, dedicating it to the memory of the late John Hinson Young II and his wife Nelga Young.

Three sculptures from the Youngs' collection of modern art, which was bequeathed to the Bermuda National Gallery (BNG) in 2005, have been installed in the park along with a springstone sculpture by Zimbabwean artist Jonothan Mhondorohuma.

The Sculpture Garden, a joint project between the Corporation and the BNG, fulfills a condition of the Youngs' bequest that the sculptures be shared by the community in a "museum without walls".

The sculptures from the Young Collection are: 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. *Student*, by Shona artist Jonothan Mhondorohuma is from the BNG's own collection and is a gift of BNG Trustee and renowned African art collector Dusty Hind and his wife Barbara O'Shaughnessy.

Mr. Madeiros said: "This project not only fulfills the dream of John and Nelga Young but also my friend and predecessor, the late Jay Bluck. As Mayor and as a founding trustee of the BNG, Jay had a lifelong passion for the City and the arts and Par-la-Ville Park - the Sculpture Garden was a project dear to his heart. I am delighted that we have been able to make that dream a reality."

He added: "This wonderful Sculpture Garden continues the Corporation's long-standing support of the arts. A vibrant arts scene adds vitality to the life of any major city and in many cases shapes its very identity. Here in Hamilton, we take great pride in our public art because we believe it enriches the city culturally, making it a more interesting and memorable place for both residents and visitors alike, and because it also creates a sense of fun, community and stimulates new ideas."

The opening coincided with the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the BNG on March 15, 1992 and to mark the occasion, BNG Deputy Chairman presented anniversary awards to 15 people who have played a key role in the museum's establishment and evolution. The BNG also presented appreciation awards to the Corporation of Hamilton and to the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs for their long-standing support of the visual arts and the BNG in particular.

The 15 awardees were:

Founding trustees Desmond Fountain, Charles Zuill, Michael Darling, Dennis Sherwin, Jay Bluck, Ruth Thomas, John Kaufmann, Maurine Cooper, and Georgine Hill; long-time patrons and supporters Edgar Humann, Sir Christopher Ondaatje, Albert and Louise Jackson, and Geoffrey and Fay Elliott; and John Hinson Young II and Nelga Young. *[See attached document for full details]*

Laura Gorham, Director of the BNG, said: "The Bermuda National Gallery was created with a mission to promote, benefit and advance the visual arts in Bermuda through creating a collection of significant artworks both from Bermuda and worldwide. In doing so, our goal was also to bring the community together to share and appreciate art. Public art is an essential element of that community involvement and by fulfilling the late John Hinson Young's dream of a museum without walls, we are truly making art part of people's everyday lives for now and the future. We are extremely grateful to the Corporation of Hamilton for both sharing this vision with us and enabling us to make it a reality."

Mr. Madeiros said the Garden was just the first step in promoting multicultural art throughout the city. Complementing existing public sculptures by such talented Bermudian artists as Desmond Fountain, Bill Ming and Chesley Trott. The Corporation has commissioned Mr. Trott to create a sculpture commemorating the Theatre Boycott. The sculpture is expected to be unveiled later this year.

He said that the Corporation continues to explore ways with the Bermuda National Gallery in which to develop arts in the City.

Following the ceremonies, a private reception was held at the Lemon Tree Café in the Park and the BNG's anniversary celebrations continued with a special Jazz Night with VIP Performer of the Year Gita Blakeney Saltus – the BNG's Development Director – and the Tony Bari Trio.

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.

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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](mailto:director@bng.bm) or visit [www.bng.bm](http://www.bng.bm).*