



BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

For immediate release

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BNG honours BELCO Student Art Competition winners

Hamilton, Bermuda, January 9, 2008 — Acting Minister of Education, the Hon. Nelson Bascome, JP, MP, was on hand last night to present prizes to winners of the fifth annual BELCO Student Art Competition at the Bermuda National Gallery.

A total of 558 students from 12 schools entered the competition, also supported by American Airlines and Artcetera, which is organised by the BNG to promote and nurture the visual arts in schools.

This year's theme was "Life is Art – What Is Your Story?", inspired by the BNG's recent landmark exhibition, *Living With Art: Modern & Contemporary African-American Art from the Collection of Alitash Kebede*. Lisa Howie, the BNG's Education Director explained: "*Living With Art* captured the diverse experiences and stories of African American artists so this year's BELCO Student Art Competition challenged students to reflect on a significant moment in their lives and capture it in art. Our judges were very impressed with how students from Primary 3 to Senior School rose to the challenge and produced some truly remarkable and original work."

Acting Minister Bascome congratulated the students on their "enormous talent" and said he personally was "very moved by the art that I see." He expressed the Ministry's pride "at the quality of the paintings, the variety of talents, and the energy showcased by our young people. They are a true testament to the respect our young students have for the images these paintings represent and the discipline needed to create these 'masterpieces'."

He added: "From inspirational, sweeping landscapes to the abstractness of Picasso-like expression, our students present us today with interpretations that lift our spirits, test our present perceptions and transport us from the present to a world of endless possibilities."

Judges for the competition were BNG Founding Trustee and artist Charles Zuill, artist Will Collieson and BNG Acting Curator Sophie Cressall.

Winners in each of six age categories received an Artcetera gift certificate (see list below for all winners). The first prizewinners also received a cash prize of \$250 for their school to go towards art supplies. Prizes were also awarded to second and third place in each category.

In addition, student Azana Riley of Purvis Primary School and Warwick Academy art teacher Sally Craig were the lucky winners of the draw for two round-trip American Airlines tickets.

The exhibition of all 558 entries in this year's competition will be on display at the BNG until January 15

On January 15, the BNG will host a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. including testimonial from Dr. Charles Twyman, who was present for the March On Washington in 1963, and a special screening of the film, *I Have A Dream*. Please contact the BNG for details.



Note to editors

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.

Winners of the 2008 BELCO Student Art Competition

Primary 3

1st place: Franciso Labollita, “First Day at School”
Mount St. Agnes

2nd place: Charis Jane Todd, “Birth of My Sister”
Bermuda High School

3rd place: Brandon Jones, “Great Pisa”
Warwick Academy

Primary 4

1st place: Jesse Washington, “The Colorful Trees”
Purvis Primary

2nd place: Maceo Dill, “In the Shell”
Purvis Primary

3rd place: Arianna Stapley, “My Cousin Rebecca”
Somersfield Academy

Primary 5

1st place: Abigail Exon, “Playing the Violin”
Saltus Primary

2nd place: Cody Bean, “Life is Beautiful”
Northlands Primary

3rd place: Mikaela Joy Kawaley-Latham,
“My Stuffed Animal Elley”
Kaleidoscope Arts Foundation

Primary 6

1st place: Edward A. Fischer, “Life is Art”
Somersfield Academy

2nd place: Azana Riley, “Tree of Love”

Purvis Primary

3rd place: Mia Fung, “Puzzled Landscape”
Kaleidoscope Arts Foundation

Middle School

1st place: Sarah Zurbuchen, “Life is Art”
Somersfield Academy

2nd place: Sierra Yit,
“Life Story”
Bermuda High School

3rd place: Aoife Rynne, “Myself as a Tree”
Bermuda High School

Senior School

1st place: Domico Watson, “Early Morning Catch”
Somersfield Academy

2nd place: Meagan Wellman, “My Tree of Life”
Warwick Academy

3rd place: Charles Skater, “Complicated Life”
Berkeley Institute