



For immediate release

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**WINTER EXHIBITION CELEBRATES CHARLES ZUILL MILESTONE**

*Hamilton, Bermuda January 23, 2006* – The Bermuda National Gallery is to honour Bermudian artist Dr. Charles Zuill with a major retrospective to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of Bermuda’s foremost and innovative artists.

*Charles Zuill Retrospective: The Science of Art* headlines the BNG’s Winter Exhibitions, which are sponsored by Endurance Specialty Insurance Ltd. and open to the public on January 28.

Like the scientist he once dreamed of becoming, Dr. Zuill, a founding trustee of the BNG, has spent a lifetime observing, exploring and experimenting with art. This retrospective traces his career from the 1960s to the present day. The exhibition covers the three main periods of his career: The Gray Scale Paintings (1968-88), the Soil Paintings (from 1988) and the more recent Experimental Paintings.

Regarded as one of the “founding fathers” of modernist painting in Bermuda, Charles Zuill trained at the Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts, the Byam Shaw School of Art in London and later studied at Rochester Institute of Technology and New York University. While he was art professor at Bermuda College in the 1980s he led a movement away from the landscape tradition with his abstract and conceptual works.

His 20-year study of stepped gradient resulted in the often austere but technically intricate Gray Scale works, which involved up to 256 carefully mixed gradients of black and white paint and took up to six months each to complete. “It takes a kind of obsessive, compulsive character like me to even think to do something like this,” Dr. Zuill has written. “The gray scale was a tool that allowed me to experience within myself various aspects of seeing. It was a study about seeing.”

With the Soil Paintings of the late 1980s, he returned to nature, building richly textured works using soil and other natural materials. He continues this approach today with his Experimental Paintings. “I play a game with myself in that I ponder what might happen if I did this or that. I remember once asking myself what would happen if I added liquid soap to my paint and then using a straw, blow bubbles onto my paper or canvas.”

Laura Gorham, Director of the BNG, said: “Charles Zuill has been a major influence not only on Bermudian art but in the wider development and promotion of the visual arts in Bermuda. We are proud and delighted to honour a true ‘Bermuda original’ with this exhibition which captures the full range of his extraordinary vision and technical ability. *The Science of Art* is the result of a lifetime’s experimentation by a master alchemist and artist.”

The Autumn Exhibitions will also feature works from the BNG’s Permanent Collections.

The Bermuda Collection — 350 Years of Art In Bermuda continues the BNG’s historical timeline following the artistic, historical and cultural development of Bermuda through its decorative and fine arts from 1624 to the present day. This season, the collection is complemented by significant private loans focusing on Bermuda’s early decorative arts of furniture and silverwork. The care of the Bermuda Collection for 2005-6 is kindly sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Steinhoff.

The European Collection in the Watlington Room will include paintings by Lucas Cranach, Alonzo Sanchez Coello, Richard Wilson, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough as well as a Rodin sculpture and a print by Rembrandt van Rijn.

The African Collection - Celebrating the Diversity of African Heritage, encompasses sub-Saharan Africa and consists of traditional masks and sculptures from 19 ethnic peoples and cultures. The display includes works from the Senufo, Dan, Luba, Guro and Dogon peoples. The care of the African Collection for 2005-6 is kindly sponsored by Mr. Robin Judah

In conjunction with the Winter Exhibitions, Dr. Charles Zuill will discuss his work in a Lunchtime Lecture at the BNG on Wednesday, January 25. The lecture is from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. and tickets are \$5, members free.

**Also coming up:**

On Thursday, February 2, Ruth Thomas & Company presents “Remembering Dame Marjorie Bean” in honour of Black History Month. Tickets: \$20; Members \$10  
5:30 Reception; 6:00 pm performance

On Wednesday, February 8 there will be a lecture by the international jurors for the forthcoming *Bacardi Limited Biennial 2006 Exhibition of Contemporary Bermuda Art*. Dr. Annette Blaugrund is Director, National Academy Museum and School of Fine Art, New York; and Professor Moe Brooker, is a former professor at Pennsylvania Academy

of Fine Arts. Presently he is Department Head of Basic Studies at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia where he also teaches painting. Tickets: \$15; Members: \$5  
5:30 pm Reception; 6:00 pm Lecture

**For more details about these and other BNG events, visit [www.bng.bm](http://www.bng.bm)**

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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.

##### ***About Endurance Specialty Insurance Ltd.***

Endurance Specialty Insurance Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bermuda-based Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd. Endurance is a global provider of property and casualty insurance and reinsurance. Through its operating subsidiaries located in Bermuda, the United States and the United Kingdom, Endurance currently writes property per risk treaty reinsurance, property catastrophe reinsurance, casualty treaty reinsurance, property individual risks, casualty individual risks, and other specialty lines.

Endurance is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ENH. Endurance's operating subsidiaries have been assigned a group rating of A- (Excellent) from A.M. Best and A- from Standard & Poor's. Endurance's headquarters are located at Wellesley House, 90 Pitts Bay Road, Pembroke HM 08, Bermuda. For more information about Endurance, please visit [www.endurance.bm](http://www.endurance.bm).