



BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY

For immediate release

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Young Collection to go on display for first time

- **Autumn Exhibitions also celebrate Rembrandt 400th anniversary**

Hamilton, Bermuda, September 11, 2006 — The Bermuda National Gallery's Autumn 2006 Exhibitions, sponsored by the Bank of Bermuda Foundation, will be a double cause for celebration. **The Young Collection: An Enduring Legacy** celebrates the recent gift of the *John Hinson Young II and Nelga Young Collection* to the Bermuda National Gallery while **Rembrandt Etchings: Impressions of Genius** will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of the Dutch master.

The exhibitions open to the public on September 15 and continue until January 5, 2007. Admission is free.

The Young Collection, consisting of 105 paintings, sculptures and drawings, is one of the most important cultural gifts ever made to Bermuda. In celebration of the bequest, made by the family last year, the BNG's Autumn Exhibitions will feature highlights of the collection. Among the 37 works on exhibit will be pieces by Italian sculptor Enzo Plazotta, French artists Jean Dufy, Elisse Maclet and Michel Henry and Latin American artists Francisco Zuniga, Jesus Leuus and Victor Hugo Castaneda. It will also include works by Bermudian artists Charles Lloyd Tucker, John Kaufmann, Desmond Fountain and Stephen J. Card.

The broad spectrum of work in the exhibition reflects the vision of the late John Hinson Young II and his wife 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 to be shared and enjoyed by future generations of Bermudians and visitors. As a result, several sculptures will be permanently installed in the grounds of City Hall and Par-la-Ville Park, adding an extra dimension to the exhibition.

Jeté, Enzo Plazotta's iconic study of international ballet dancer David Wall, will be installed in front of City Hall where so many of Bermuda's ballet dancers have performed. American sculptor Berthold Schiwetz's bronze *Praying Mantis Fountain* has been installed in Par-La-Ville Park, while George Lundeen's *The Storybooks* has already become a much-loved fixture on the portico of City Hall.

Laura T. Gorham, Director of the BNG, said the Young Collection represented a milestone in the development of the museum: "Not only is the Collection significant from an artistic perspective but the deed of gift has shown remarkable foresight in providing for its ongoing care and development. With the generous endowment included in the gift by Mr. and Mrs. Young, the Gallery will be able to support the care of the collection, including significant conservation work."

In addition, the BNG will be able to sell pieces and upgrade the Collection. Curator David Mitchell explained that the Collection was an ongoing process for the Youngs, who often bought speculatively: "With the family's agreement, the BNG is able to sell some pieces from the collection, particularly where there are multiple works by the same artist, and use the funds to purchase works by other artists to round out the Collection. The Youngs' records, which have come to the BNG with the Collection, give us a clear idea of artists that they were interested in purchasing and, at times, include specific paintings that they had bid on at auction."

Mr. Mitchell said the Collection had tripled the size of the museum's modern collection alone. "The reluctance of many local collectors to import their more significant pieces because of the 8% import duty has made it difficult for us to collect in this area. The Young gift, which is particularly strong in Mexican sculpture and early 20th century French painting, has rounded out the collection, by also adding artists from Italy, China, Spain, and Canada as well as the United States."

Penne Leseur, John and Nelga's daughter, said on behalf of the family: "Our parents' gift of their paintings, sculptures and an endowment to the Bermuda National Gallery is particularly meaningful for my brother John and me and our respective families as it will remain together in a first-class national institution and serve as a kind reminder of the many years of enjoyment their collection gave to us, to our wonderfully dedicated long-serving Lantana Colony Club family and to hundreds of guests.

"Art in many forms played a huge role in all our lives. Our parents defined the stage: the art of indulging guests, the art of fine service, the art of beautiful surroundings. Paintings and sculptures were the vision that gave hospitality new meaning and fulfilled our father's long time dream. The art of giving is an ultimate gift. My brother and I and our respective families are honoured and pleased that the Bermuda National Gallery, a first class institution, would accept our parent's collection, honouring their wish that the collection remain together in Bermuda so that it can continue to be enjoyed by future generations."

David Lang, Director of sponsors Bank of Bermuda Foundation, commented: “The Bank of Bermuda Foundation is pleased to continue its support of the Bermuda National Gallery in its mission to promote, benefit and advance the visual arts in Bermuda through its collection of artworks from Bermuda and worldwide. We believe it is important for our community and in particular our youth to be exposed to the Arts, which play a vital role in the all-round development of productive citizens. By inspiring the youth of today and the young artists among us, through collections like this, we serve to enrich our culture and provide support for Bermuda's artists and their works.”

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The Autumn Exhibitions will also mark the 400th anniversary of one of the world’s greatest artists, Rembrandt van Rijn, who was born in Leiden, Holland in 1606. **Rembrandt Etchings: Impressions of Genius** is an exclusive exhibition in the Watlington Room featuring 12 prints from a private collection that illustrate the Dutch master’s skill as a printmaker.

During a 40-year career Rembrandt created more than 300 prints and pushed a relatively new medium to its expressive limits. According to the Rembrandt House Museum in Amsterdam: “Etching was not a sideline where Rembrandt was concerned. His prints cannot be regarded as inferior by-products of his paintings, which nowadays are much more famous. Rembrandt took his graphic art very seriously for almost the whole of his working life.”

The Autumn Exhibitions will be rounded out by the BNG’s revolving exhibition, *The Bermuda Collection: 350 Years of Art in Bermuda* in the Ondaatje Wing, which tells Bermuda’s history through the development of its fine and decorative arts over the past 350 years. From 17th century furniture made by the early colonists and the first artists working in Bermuda during the shipbuilding era of the 18th century to the tourist economy and international business of the 20th and 21st centuries, Bermudian art has always been linked to the social-economic conditions of its time. The collection includes work from across historical periods and represents a wide variety of techniques, subjects and mediums.

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.

