

# Nat. Gallery takes the cover off quilts

2001

Today sees the opening of the appropriately titled *From the Heart* exhibition at the National Gallery.

The exhibition of art quilts runs through 17 March and highlights the graphic power of quilts

while illustrating the use of textiles as a medium of creative expression.

The show, which features quilts from near and far, displays a vast array of quilt designs. The highlight of the show is however a quilt-

in-progress entitled, *Love of our Island*, made by the local quilting group of which the Governor's wife Mrs. Suzanne Smith, is a member.

Each of the participants designed and created their own individual square, expressing something that they, as individuals love about the Cayman Islands. The squares were then joined to become a part of the larger quilt. Visitors to the Gallery will be able to watch this wonderful quilt in progress when they visit the Gallery throughout the month.

New forms of art expression are finding their way into the major

international museums. Contemporary art quilts are now being included in collections around the world.

Colour and texture are everywhere in this exhibition of textile art. The tactile nature of cloth makes these textile "paintings", "drawings", and "prints" particularly appealing, as does the refreshing nature of the works, which break almost all the rules of traditional quilt making.

Many of the works carry photographed, stamped, or drawn imagery, a new form of "printing" that contrasts with the prints of yesteryear's calico and chintz. Contemporary

designs, as the exhibition demonstrates, are more likely to be abstract and are unlikely to "repeat" as traditional quilt patterns did. Several quilts in the exhibition are composed of words or abstract images.

The result is a show of some boldly experimental works, where textiles function more as canvasses and where techniques appear more painted than sewn.

The exhibition opens today at 6.30 pm (14 February). *From the Heart* is open weekdays from 10 am to 7 pm and on Saturdays from 11 am to 4 pm. Call the National Gallery at 945-8111 for information.

Heartworm disease is a long agonizing death for dogs. Symptoms of late stage heartworm disease include difficulty breathing, coughing, listlessness, and weight loss. However, a dog may have heartworm disease and not exhibit any of these signs.

As with so many diseases, heartworm is easiest to cure when it is detected early. Pet owners should not wait for their dogs to become ill to have them tested, as this lessens the animal's chances for a successful cure. A simple blood test, conducted by a veterinarian, can detect heartworm disease in its earliest stages.

Even puppies as young as six months old may have already contracted heartworm disease and should be brought in for testing. For information call 949-1461.