

Native Son in one-man art show

2004

A new tongue-in-cheek National Gallery show will highlight the talents of its own graphic and exhibition designer, Caymanian Wray Banker starting this Friday (19 October).

Teasingly titled 'serious Bout "Mekin" Fun,' the show is an exploration of local culture by a 'native son.'

Mr. Banker, who chose the title, believes it accurately reflects his aesthetic philosophy.

"Many pieces reflect childhood and other personal memories and have humour as well as a serious side. The *Ode to Milo* series represents this approach. It consists of several studies of a tin of Milo, which is a popular Caribbean beverage. In cases such as this I try to bring culture to pieces where it is relevant," he



Caymanian Artist Wray Banker (right) accepts a cheque for \$1,000 from CUC's Senior Vice President & General Manager Richard Hew, as the company's sponsorship of his exhibition 'Serious Bout "Mekin" Fun.' (Photo: CUC)

explains.

Praising precisely this quality in his work, National Gallery Director Leslie Bigelman says: "His graphic style is unique. He

is a clear, insightful communicator and his work reflects his commitment to and involvement with his friends, his family, his culture and his community."

The exhibition at the gallery's premises in Alexander Place (formerly Alexandra Place), Dorcy Drive, will include old and new pieces in a number of media such as acrylics, sculpture and poetry. There will also be a work-in-progress to which he will add throughout the exhibition.

While Wray Banker has previously exhibited with the 'Native Done' group of artists, 'Serious Bout "Mekin" Fun' will be his first one-man show. It opens Friday, October 19, 7pm and continues through November at the National Gallery. Exhibition sponsors include Caribbean Utilities Company, Texaco, Bonnie and Balan Murugesu, Irish Trust, Vontobel Trust, the Office of Architecture and Design and Quick Images. (GIS)