

JAN 7, 2002

NG presents Haring lecture

By Elphina Magona

Art lovers on Grand Cayman, most of whom will by now have seen the Keith Haring exhibition, will soon have the chance to attend a video and lecture presentation by the executive director of the Keith Haring Foundation based in New York City.

The presentation by Julia Gruen, organised by the National Gallery, is the first of the current year's lecture presentations. Entitled 'The life and work of artist Keith Haring', the presentation will take place in the Royal Crown Room on the

beach side of the Hyatt Hotel starting at 7pm this coming Tuesday, 8 January.

The presentation will start off with a video before moving on to Ms Gruen's lecture, which will conclude with a question-and-answer session. The entire presentation is expected to last no more than an hour and a half.

In 1984, at the age of 24, Julia Gruen was hired as Keith Haring's assistant by the Tony Shafrazi Gallery in New York. Ms Gruen remained a friend and assistant to Mr. Haring from 1984

until his death in 1990. Her insight into the man and his works was reinforced by keeping books, negotiating contracts and accompanying him on numerous trips around the world as well as working closely with the artist on numerous projects.

She helped him through the deaths of his close friends, including Andy Warhol, and was with him when he was diagnosed with HIV and later as his health deteriorated in 1989.

Since Keith Haring's death in 1990 from complications associated with AIDS, Ms Gruen has

been the executive director of the Keith Haring Foundation Inc. and his estate.

The current exhibition of Keith Haring's editions on paper, which are on loan from his estate, are on view at the National Gallery until 9 February 2002.

Those wanting further information on the exhibition or next week's presentation are asked to call the National Gallery at 945-8111. As the gallery is a not-for-profit organisation, it is suggesting an entrance donation of CI\$5 for the presentation.