

Cuban artist to visit Cayman as Nat. Gallery exhibits his works

The National Gallery will turn to Cayman's nearest geographical neighbour for a dose of Latin exuberance when its next exhibition opens on Tuesday 19 February.

Seventy-eight-year-old Cuban Master Adigio Benitez is scheduled to attend the opening night party for what will be only his third solo exhibition outside his native country. In his honour, organisers will play salsa music and serve Cuban refreshments throughout

the evening.

Describing Mr. Benitez's style as "fresh and imaginative," Gallery Director Leslie Bigelman says: "His work combines the figures and images of artists such as Picasso with a contemporary use of geometric forms. It speaks of the exotic landscapes and legends of Cuba. The tales he weaves with pen and brush make us understand that he has the heart and soul of a young man."

Ms. Bigelman adds that she was motivated to invite Mr. Benitez to exhibit in the Cayman Islands by the two countries' shared history.

The artist is a founding professor of Cuba's National School of Art who, in 1994, received his country's highest honour. Several of his paintings are on display at the National Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts. His work has also appeared throughout the Caribbean, Latin America, Spain,

Italy, Sweden, and Eastern Europe, as well as the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Members of the public are invited to attend the opening night festivities, which begin 7 pm at Alexandra Place. The exhibition will continue through 20 April.

Community support was provided by the Dart Foundation, the Goldstone Family Foundation, Morritts Tortuga Club, Sta-Mar and Jackie Douglas. (GIS)