

A little painter gets a hand from a Walkers volunteer.

Planting seeds of pride

Story and photos by Searlina Bodden

Young minds were bursting with inspiration at the children's opening for Bendel Hydes' latest exhibition, *Soundings*.

Led by National Gallery Educational Director Natalie Coleman, 15 thoughtful artisans were brushed up on concepts, which

directly apply to the artist in question - realism and abstract painting among them. In response, the little art enthusiasts were free with their observations. Six-year-old George Lewis was very perceptive in analysing one of Bendel's works, *First Light Series No. 3 (1998)*, concluding, "Those things look like bones!" *Confluence (2001)*, an

arrangement in multi-media, also drew a large amount of attention from the bunch.

Just as the group was beginning to get antsy, they were unleashed outdoors where employees of local law firm Walkers (which sponsored the event) were waiting amongst an impressive spread of art supplies and snacks. As

volunteers struggled to keep cups of juice and cups of paint-filled water separate, the kids were free to exercise their own brand of creation.

As the morning warmth turned to afternoon heat, the crowd dispersed. Off they went dragging the results of their efforts - leaving a trail of juice, paint and pride.

rankin, 56, one of about 50 players hunched over felt-lined tables at a Kingston nightspot in preparation for the championship.

The game

In straight dominoes, the game most common in the region, a pair of two-player teams take turns trying to match the number of dots on their pieces with those on the table. The first to get

sandpaper to mark pieces.

Some players liken the game to poker as they try to gauge opponents' moves.

"Dominoes in Jamaica is synonymous to baseball in America," said Chris Blake, general secretary of the National Association of Domino Bodies, which regulates the game on the island of 2.6 million. "It's second nature to us."

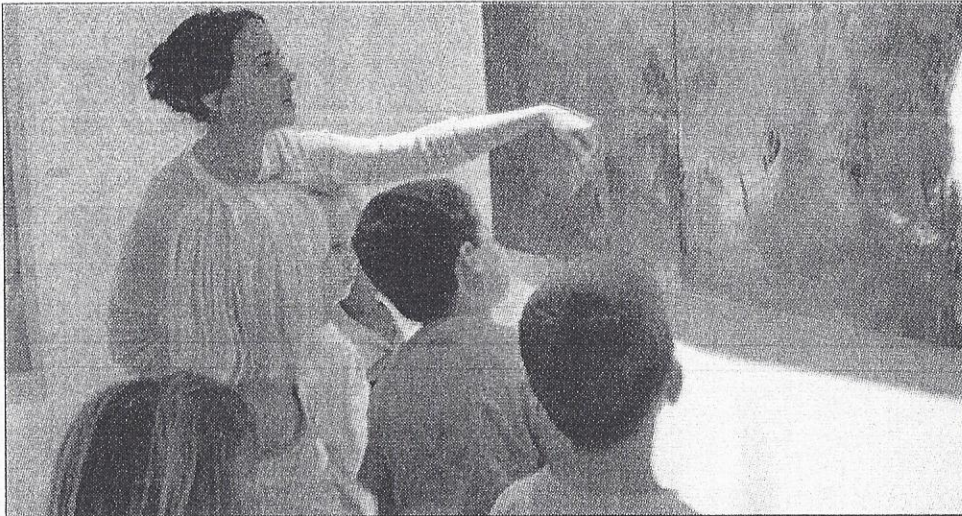
On the street, the Jamaican style of play can

Once the guys realize you can play and aren't a pushover, then they respect you," said Ann-Marie Benjamin, 38.

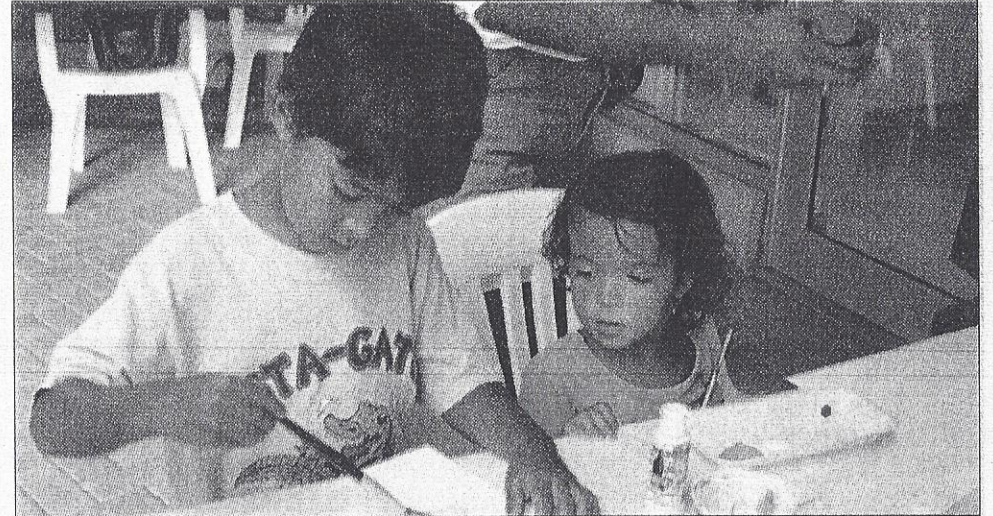
It's all part of efforts to bring uniformity and discipline to the game, said Ruddy Schaaffe, the Miami-based chairman of the World Championship of Dominoes.

And the ultimate goal?

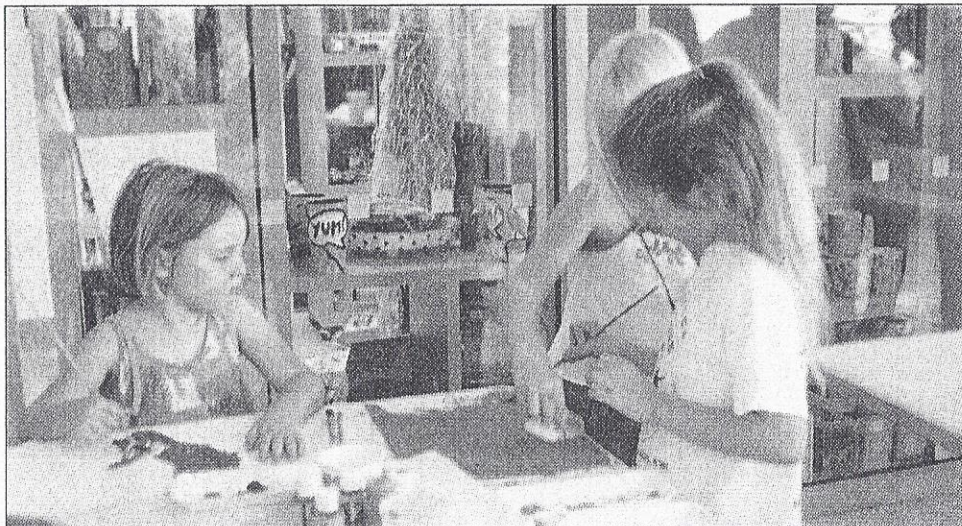
"We'd like to see dominoes become an



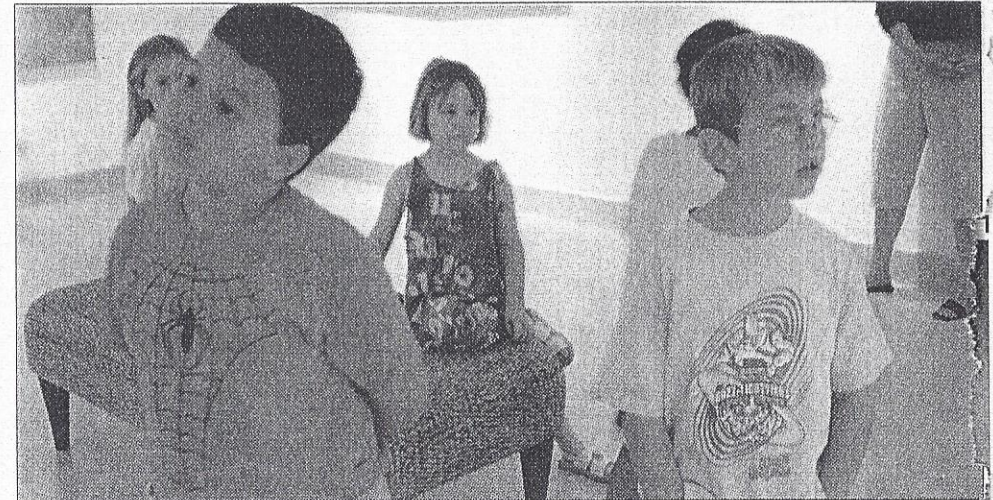
National Gallery Educational Director Natalie Coleman explains brushstrokes to the young attendees.



Two-year old Marissa Harrison takes cues from older brother Jared, 5, who seems to have already "found the muse".



Friends help each other "sponge" the paint.



George Lewis and friend Josh Rawlins examine the works on display at *Soundings*, a retrospective of the works of Bendel Hydes.