

Gallery donation emerges out of the debris

THE key piece in the National Gallery's recent Emergence exhibition has been given to the Gallery as a permanent piece to form part of the national collection, by the artist.

Karoly Szucs from Artisan Metal Works recently donated his sculpture entitled 'That Morning', created from scrap iron and found objects, was the opening piece in the Emergence exhibition that featured photography, video and assemblage art created from recycled materials in the wake of Hurricane Ivan.

Along with other artists from this

poignant exhibition Mr Szucs drew from his own experiences during and after the ordeal.

"Nothing was left untouched that morning, our homes, our lives, our infrastructure. We were completely powerless to change the course of nature," says the accompanying artist statement to explain the work.

Although Hungarian born, he has lived in the Cayman Islands for several years, and was moved to create after returning to his devastated Industrial Park studio and finding his large supply

of metal badly damaged by flood water.

Standing four feet high, 'That Morning' is a swirling vortex of corroded iron rising up in a manner reminiscent of its inspiration.

Embedded in the centre of the spiral are objects that the artist found when walking in the aftermath – electricity and water meters, a broken mug and a clock that stopped at 8.10AM when the storm was at its most fervent – symbolising the complete upheaval of normality. These objects appear suspended as if captured in flight and thrown about by the strong wind.

"The Gallery is delighted with the donation", said Natalie Coleman, Deputy Director of the National Gallery, who manages the permanent collection.

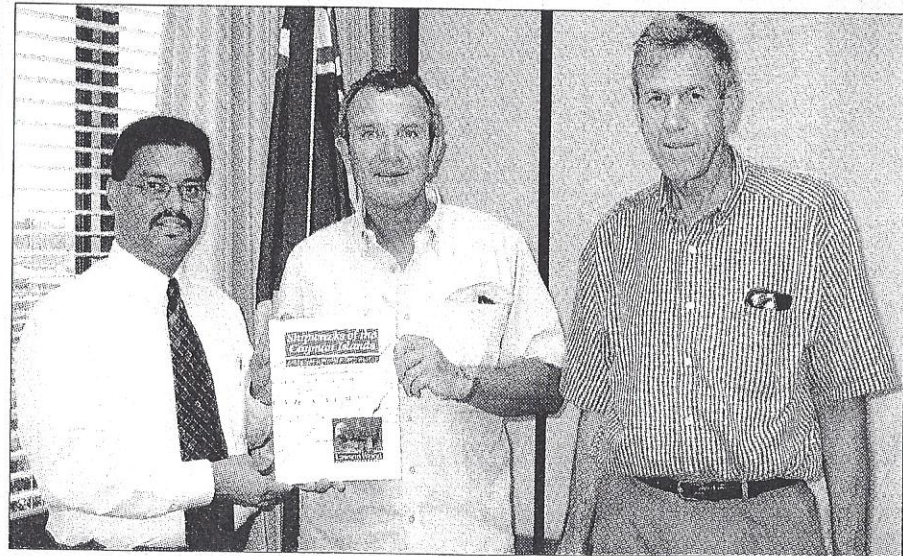
"It is a sensitive and creative representation of a significant chapter in our Islands' history. Karoly's sculpture clearly captures the essence of the Emergence exhibition by illustrating the therapeutic and transformative qualities of art.

"It is an artistic response to the darkest hours in our recent history and the courage it has required to prevail beyond it. "A National Collection of art should be truly representative of the history and experiences of its people. It would have been a great loss not to have a piece of work that was inspired by this momentous event."

The sculpture will eventually go on display at the Gallery's future permanent location which has a projected groundbreaking date of Summer 2006.



Local author presents new book to Minister



Lawson Wood (c), presented his latest book "Shipwrecks of the Cayman Islands" to the Hon