

# Art Space explores NG

By Joanna Lewis

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The National Gallery's latest exhibition, Art Space, is giving visitors a snapshot of the gallery's new purpose-built facility.

Construction on the \$3.2 million building, off the Harquail bypass, is set to begin at the end of summer.

Art Space includes drawings and photographs of the new facility by architect Danny Owen, as well as selected artworks from the National Collection, educational programmes and film space featuring a video installation as well as hands-on activities for youngsters.

Deputy Director, Natalie Coleman, said the exhibition is a glimpse of what the new gallery's building will include.

"This show is essentially a snapshot of all the creative things which will be a part of this great new space," she said.

"In addition, we have also used this as an opportunity to illustrate the concept for the building. What it is going to look like as well as the building timeline."

She added: "We also wanted to illustrate to people why we urgently need a new facility."



Asta su Abuelo, Francisco Goya, undated.

Artworks from the National Collection aim to show the breadth and variety of the collection and include a number of never before exhibited pieces as well as popular favourites.

On display are works by artists Bendel Hydes, David Bridgeman, Gladwin "Miss Lassie" Bush and Charles Long, as well as members of the local art group Native Sons. Other pieces on display include a print, dated 1797 to 1798, by Francisco Goya from the series *Los Caprichos*. Considered Goya's most brilliant work, the collection depicts 18th century Spain as a nation of grotesque monsters. The print was donated by NG board member Truman Bodden.

"We really wanted to give people a glimpse of the vari-

ety of exciting and more unusual works we have within the National Collection," Ms Coleman said. "Once the gallery's new facility is built we will have a dedicated space to display works from the National Collection on a rotation basis."

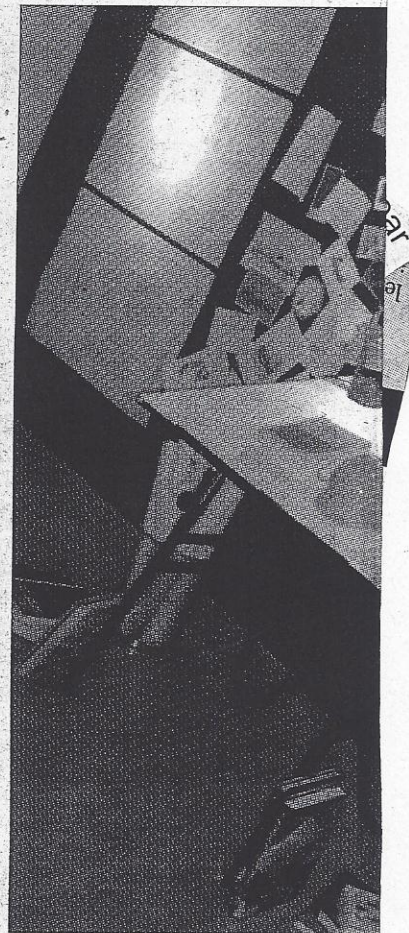
In the film space area of the exhibition visitors can listen to a short documentary featuring Chairman of the NG Building Committee Martin Bould, Architect Danny Owen and Project Manager Jeremy Superfine, as well as local prolific artists Aston Ebanks and Randy Chollette discussing the importance of art in Cayman and the concept behind the new gallery building.

Architects drawings, sketches and photographs, as well as works by the gallery's educational programmes round out the rest of the show.

In addition, there are plenty of hands on activities to keep youngsters occupied, including the opportunity to enter the gallery's sketching competition.

## NEW BEGINNINGS

The new facility has been designed by architect Danny Owen of OA+D, the building design aiming to be a modern interpretation of Cay-



Architectural drawings, sketches and photographs.

manian architecture.

The 7,000 square foot facility, opposite the Harquail Theatre, will include a spacious art studio, 56-seat auditorium, café, library, store-room, and exhibition space.

# new home

ity will also include lush gardens and ample space for outdoor events and art activities.

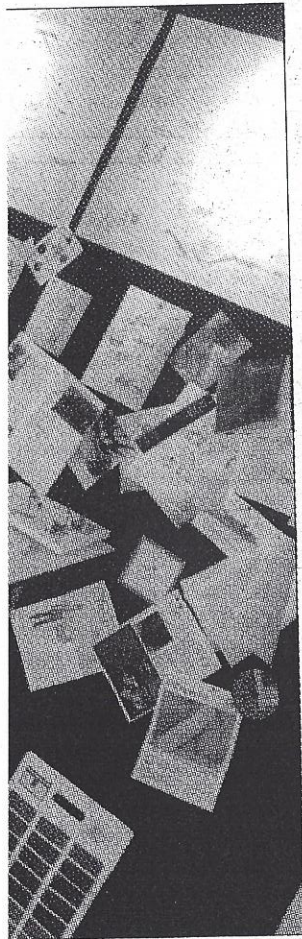
Some \$2 million of the required \$3 million has already been raised, thanks to the support of local businesses and board members.

"This space is urgently needed," NG Director Nancy Barnard said. "We just don't have enough space. Our offices are packed and we only have enough room for one show at a time.

"This new building will allow Cayman art to be taken to a whole new level and allow us to be taken a lot more seriously on the international art scene."

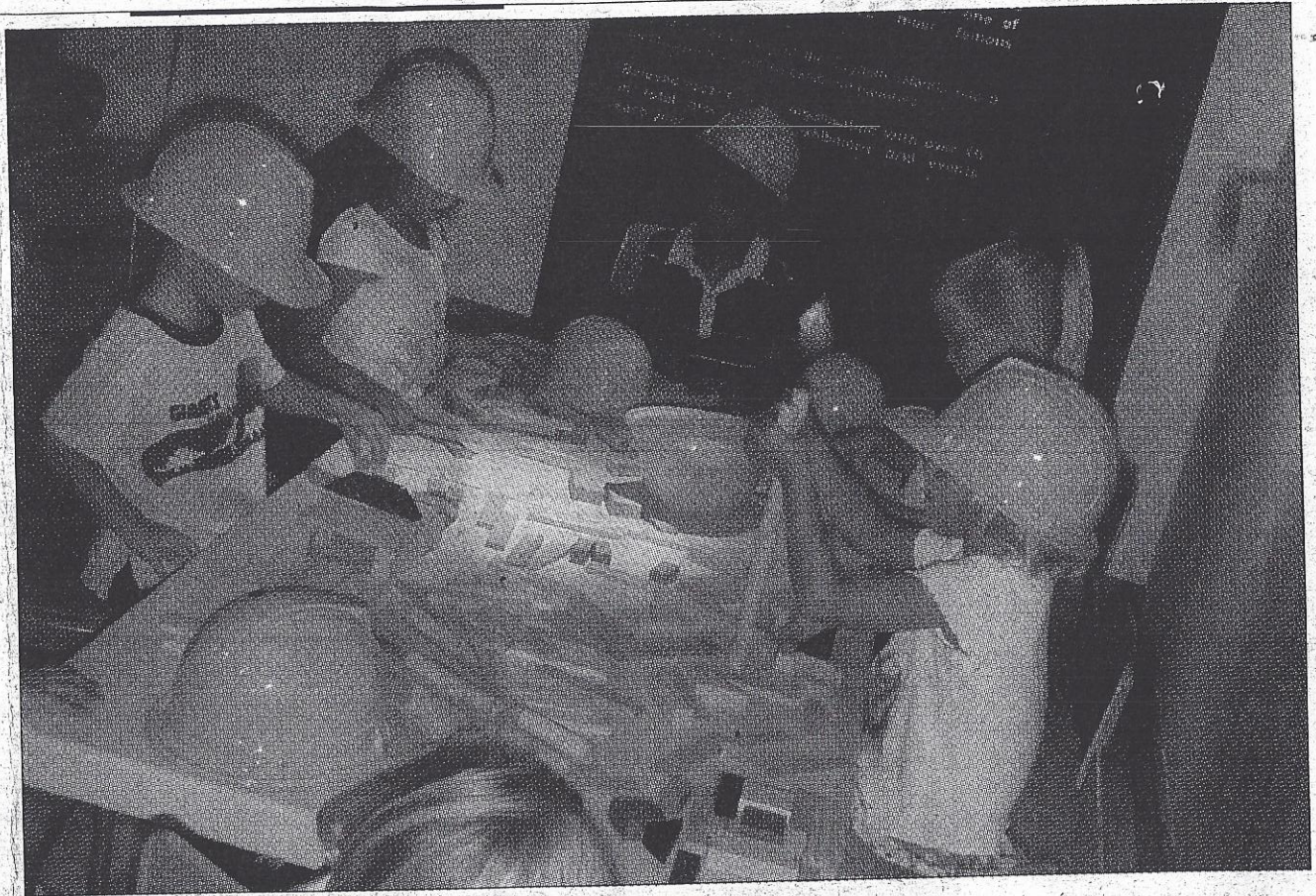
The gallery is asking local business to consider the remaining naming opportunities. Members of the public can also help by participating in gallery fundraisers, including the Blue Reflections - an opportunity to decorate a tile for a permanent mural display for just \$25 - and Name-a-Brick - an opportunity to engrave a brick or paving stone, from just \$250.

Ms Barnard added: "This is everyone's gallery and we are asking all to take pride in their national gallery



Current office space part of Art Space.

A ceiling height of 32 feet in the exhibition hall will allow the gallery for the first time to display large-scale installations.



Young visitors to Art Space enjoy some of the interactive activities. Photos: Joanna Lewis

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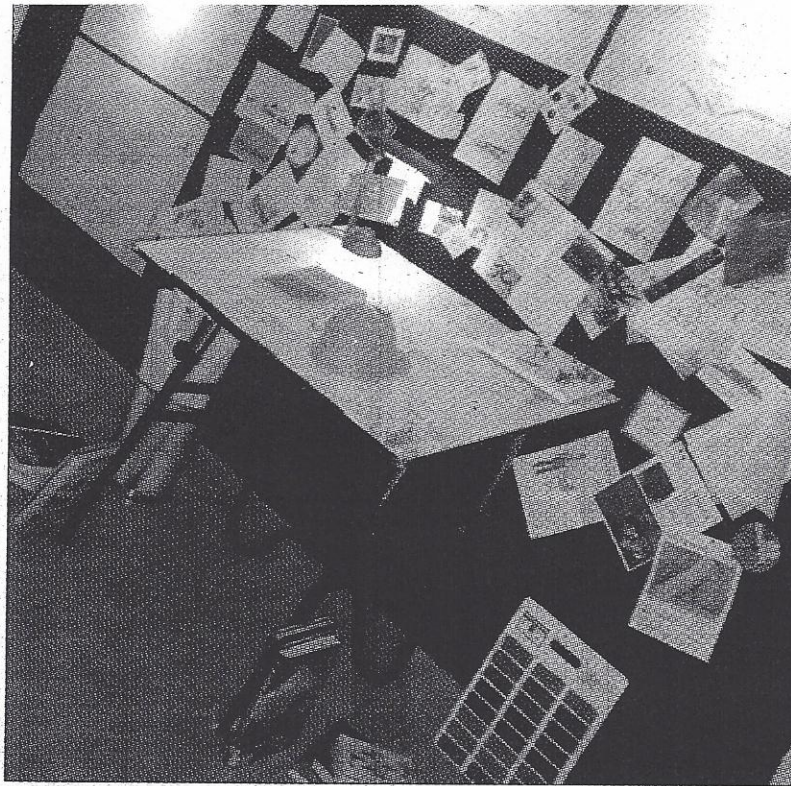
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Standing on almost four acres of land, the new facil-

required \$3 million has already been raised, thanks to the support of local businesses and board members.

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## ART SPACE SKETCH COMPETITION

The National Gallery is holding a sketching competition as part of Art Space.

Competitors can make a sketch of their favourite part of the new National Gallery building on their visit to the exhibition, whether it is the interior or exterior, based on the architectural designs on display in the exhibition.

There are several categories available and the winner of each category will win a round trip ticket to either Cayman Brac or Little Cayman.

Categories are:

- Adults: 18+ years
- Teens: 13-17 years
- Tweens: 10-12 years
- Big Kids: 6-8 years
- Little Kids: Less than 5 years

The exhibition runs through Wednesday, 13 August.

## FYI

For visitors who would like to learn more, the gallery is holding an informal discussion on the topic 'Art in Cayman' on Thursday, 24 July. Local artists, writers and gallery curators will form part of the discussion panel. For further details contact the gallery on 945-8111.