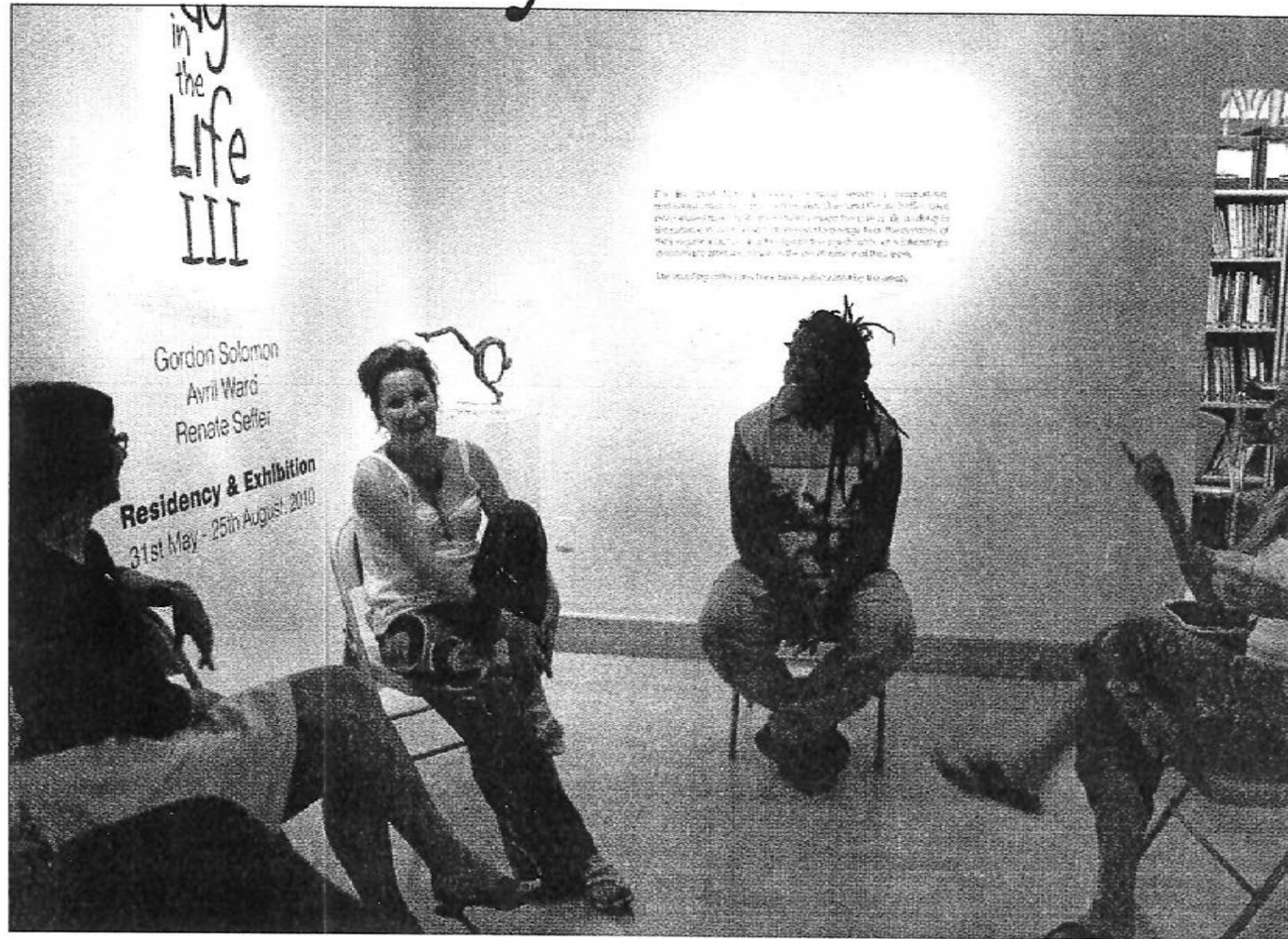
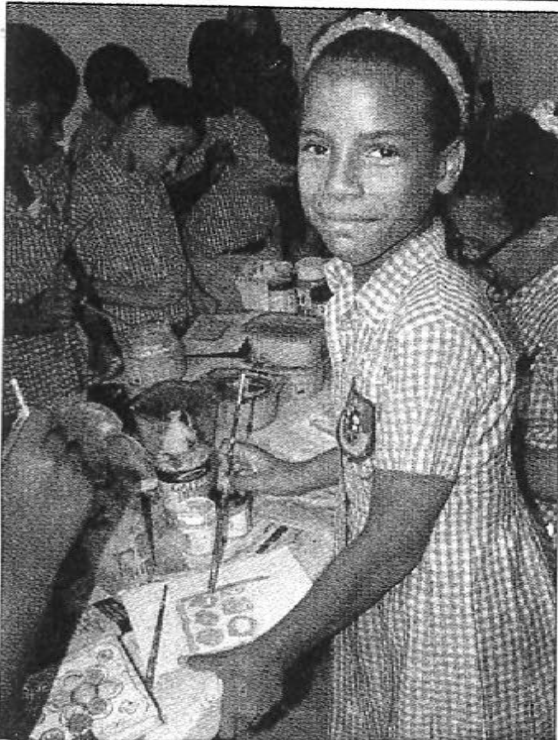
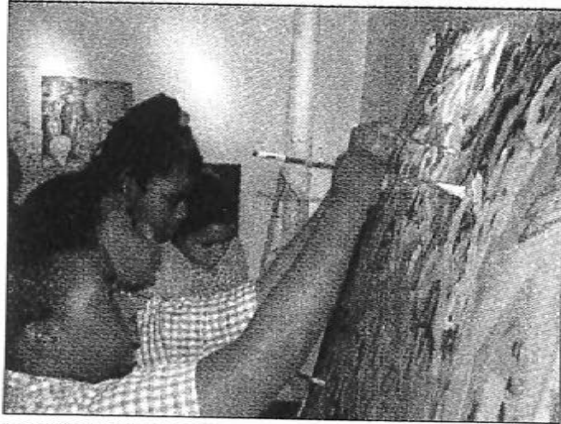
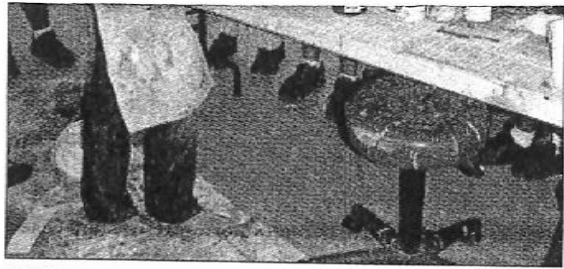


A dialogue with residency artists

The National Gallery continues its bi-monthly discussion with local artists on topics relevant to the art scene in Cayman today. This month the discussion falls with artists Gordon Solomon, Avril Ward and Renate Seffer, the three artists in residence at the National Gallery's A Day in the Life III annual programme. Technique, inspiration, development and interaction were all themes up for discussion. Business Editor Lindsey Turnbull reports. First in a series.





Artistic discussions

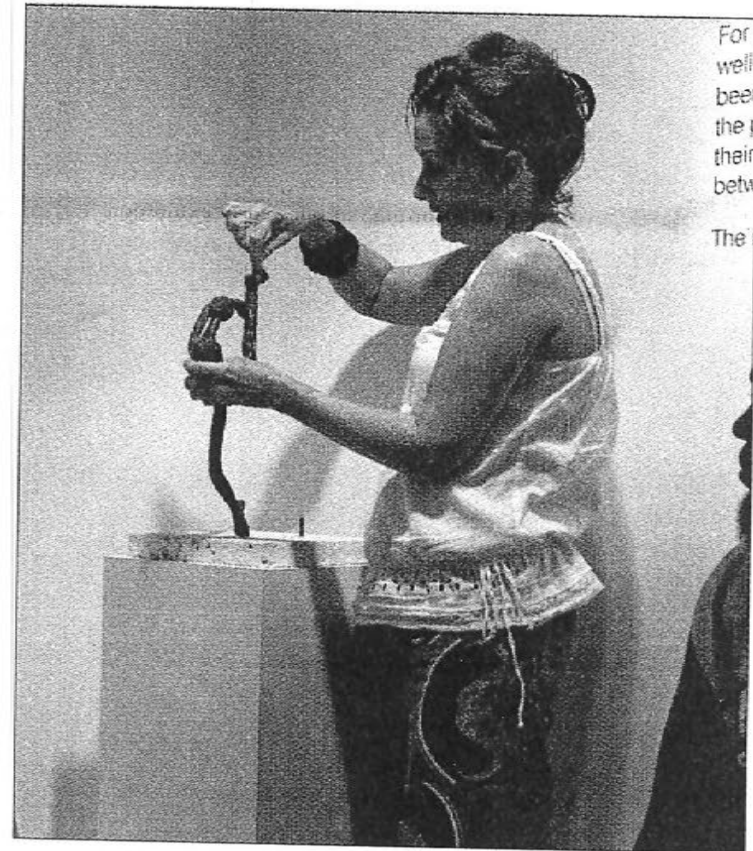
Now in its third year the National Gallery's artists' residency programme plucks three well-versed artists out of the comfort zones of their own art studios and places them squarely in the forefront, within the Gallery itself, laid bare to the gaze of passers-by keen to get a glimpse of the artist at work.

Natalie Urquhart, director of the National Gallery, opened up the discussion by explaining that the art forums were intended to create dialogue within the community on issues as they relate to the art scene. She mentioned some interesting subject matters already discussed, including producing art for commercial purposes verses art for art's sake, the difficulties associated with pricing art and the issue of censorship.

This edition of Art Forum would focus on the artists who have been creating a process which, Natalie said, had been inspiring to watch as the week unfolded.

Natalie: Tell us about your own creative process:

Avril: My inspiration comes from either a concrete idea that I have in mind or something much looser. With sculpting, I begin with an armature (basic frame).



For well-been the p their betw The

real life. I'm excited about creating bronze sculptures out of the clay pieces and I will be creating limited editions of between ten and 20 editions using this time-honoured method of sculpting.

Gordon: I have been working on two new pieces that are based on the Bible's parables plus I'm going to include some new pieces in the exhibition that I haven't shown before. I have also included a self portrait that I created in one day. I would

ideas in my head about how I was going to create large pieces of work but it just did not happen. It's very interesting to be taken out of your comfort zone where you are quite isolated as an artist and see how you will respond. I have in the end worked on some smaller pieces with a more abstract leaning as compared to the more figurative work that I am perhaps better known for.

Natalie: I think the idea of

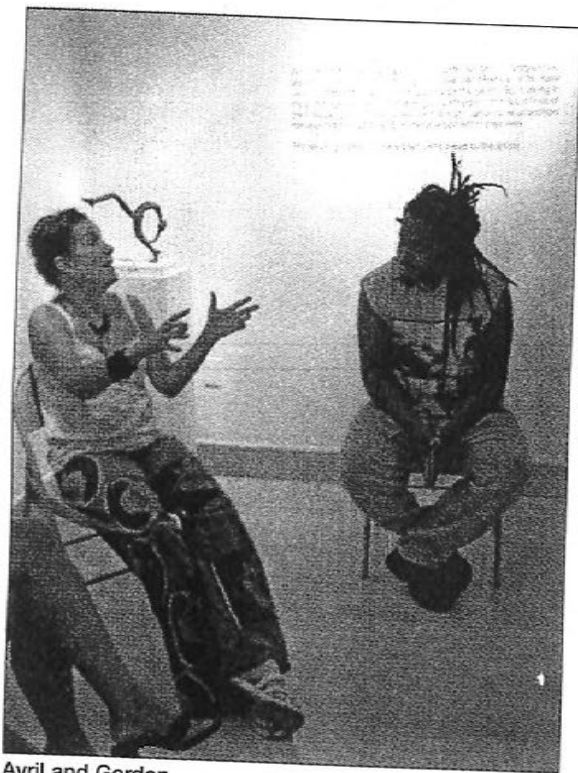
created (16 small squ
I am letting people ph
and send as art messag
like texts). I could no
how much the student
my wave length when
to identifying the e
that I had associated w
piece. Another could e
into the message tha
creating with a piece c
ture, which is all abo
at peace with oneself.
asked me if I was a
of the da Vinci family,
thought was so sweet.

Renate: I allowed
dents to create their own
on a large piece of canva
interesting to see the diff
work that they created. I
painted very dark imag
tears running down a fac
another painted peace si
love hearts!

Avril: I was intereste
students' reaction to the
nudity that I have in som
sculpture work. The youn
dents did not bat an eye
did the older girls, but the
boys could be seen gigg
pointing!

Natalie: What do yo
next on your agenda?

Students enjoy spending time with the artists. "I think remembering yourself as a child helps with the anti-aging process," says artist Gordon Solomon



Avril and Gordon

really strong and forgiving, similar to the comparison of water colours and acrylics. I enjoy creating long, thin characters and I could not achieve them using normal clay as it would be too soft. The fibre clay is an amazing product as it's so versatile.

I got my sculpting groove back when the Visual Arts Society acquired a kiln and that reignited my lifelong passion for the art form. I used to sculpt 18 years ago and interestingly enough I used to sculpt long thin figures then as well.

I used to be a professional dancer and so my emotional expression through movement, (although in a static moment) can be attributed to that time of my life. I enjoy sculpting fantastical body shapes that anyone would be hard pressed to replicate in

techniques and includes abstract. It's really reflects an emerging of style – lots of people know me for my scenes and murals but the residency has allowed me to bring out my spiritual side.

Natalie: We all know you for your cubism and pointillism and so I have really enjoyed the surreal element in your work during the residency, for example the ominous figure in the corner in one painting and the inclusion of the hoop – it takes the painting to a totally different dimension.

Gordon: I wanted to add a world of play into the work, so that it's not all taken too seriously.

Renate: Before the residency programme I had lots of

as it provides a first hand look at another's creative process. I had been exploring ways to create such a programme for quite a while, using empty spaces on island to give artist a place to experiment, with no pressure on them to create pieces for a particular end. It creates an enormous amount of energy at the gallery and a lot of dialogue between the artists, visitors and NGCI staff. Our school audience in particular, they love to ask questions and get directly involved.

Renate: I have really enjoyed the interaction with the students. It has been an amazing experience.

Avril: I agree. One student in particular really identified with the paintings that I have

series called Sweet I games. It is going to laughter, love, dancing things we do as children yearn to do again. I think remembering yourself as a child with the anti-aging pro-

Renate: Like Gordon did a self-portrait in oil. I think it would be great a bunch of artists together have them create their own portraits there and then

Avril: besides a few pieces in a couple of groups coming up, I haven't thought far ahead!

An exhibition of the artists' residency work is on display at the National Gallery and will run until 25 August.