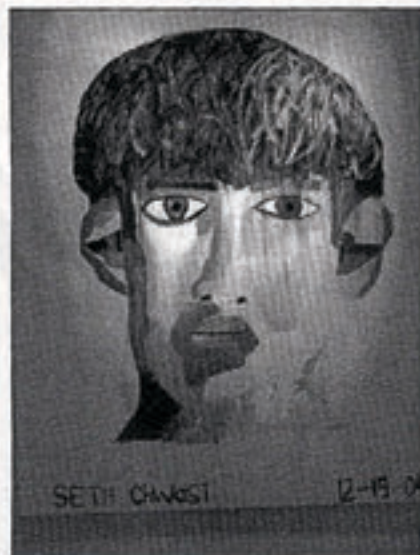


NATIONAL GALLERY EXHIBITION



Self study I



The giant octopus



Blowin' in the wind 3

The voice of an artist

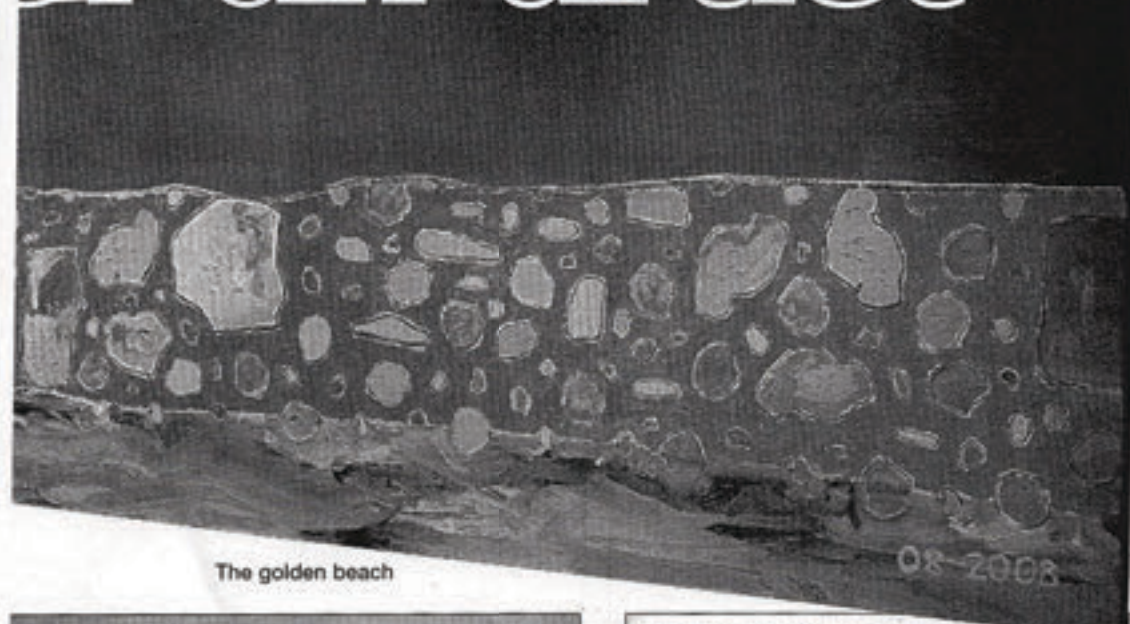
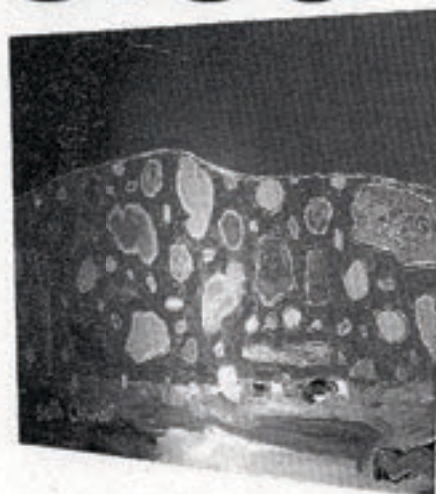
One boy's vision of the world has been translated into a visual feast for everyone who visits the National Gallery's latest exhibition, entitled Seth Chwast - Icons of Cayman. Business Editor Lindsey Turnbull visits the exhibition and finds out more about this hitherto unknown artist exhibiting for the first time here in Cayman.

A riot of colour and easily identifiable images of the islands, Seth Chwast's Icons of Cayman are a big bold statement about what he loves about Cayman, set in Seth's inimitable style that is both hard hitting and absorbing. Thirty three paintings of turtles, parrots, marine life and more, Icons of Cayman will touch viewers of all ages at varying levels.

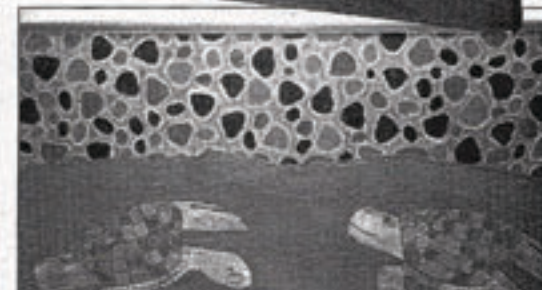
The poignancy of Seth's work is perhaps heightened immeasurably by the fact that he

appreciation of some fine artwork.

Seth's friend, artist and teacher, Donna Rogers explains how the paintings for the exhibition in Cayman came about: "Seth and I have always had good communication. Our 'conversations' range from verbal to gestural to visual. I like to read Seth's emotional barometer, so-to-speak, which allows me to sensitively approach ideas about painting with him. Seth [who is from the States] went to the Cayman Islands earlier this year and when he returned home, his excitement from



The golden beach



come the most challenging odds.”

Debra Chwast (the artist's mother)

shapes & sizes!”

Donna says there is a definite process to Seth's painting. First they sketch, sometimes many or perhaps just one grand sketch. Donna says she uses the process of sketching as a tool for Seth to gather his thoughts and feelings about an experience. Then they will do research during this time if it he seems unsure somehow. Most often, she says, the research and the sketching will interweave. This can boost Seth's confidence about painting.

Donna says that she believes art is Seth's real voice and confirms, "He is passionate about painting and it is reflected in all of his art."

Curator for this exhibition, Natalie Coleman, Deputy Director of the National Gallery says that learning how to converse through this visual arts medium changed Seth's life.

She confirms, "Diagnosed with autism as a very young child, Seth lived for years in a world of roller coasters, haunted houses, and classical music. A dramatic change came in 2003, when at age 20 he took an oil painting class at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Seth soon began describing his world in paint. It turned out that he has an innate ability to mix colours and create amazing works of art that reflect his vision of his world and the world around him. In the years since Seth's work has internationally and his journey has become an inspiration serving as a reminder that through creativity we can overcome the most challenging odds."

The National Gallery presented this latest exhibition in conjunction with RBS Coutts. David Foster, Head of Private banking at RBS Coutts says, "By raising the awareness of autism more people will learn about this developmental disability which affects one in 150 children in the US. With this



Octopus feature highly

for allowing us this insight into a world seldom seen by the public and to Nancy Kirkaldy-Barnard and Natalie Coleman for organizing another fantastic National Gallery exhibition."

Looking at art in a broader context is a prime goal of the National Gallery, as Natalie explains, "Art can provide a level platform through which to discuss differences. With this in mind the national Gallery strives to develop exhibitions and educational initiatives which reflect the different social relations and realities within our society, and through these initiatives to attempt to open up possibilities for mutual respect and understanding."

Natalie goes on to say that Seth's work provides the Gallery with an opportunity to redress the stereotypical representations of those with difference.

"He is an individual who has overcome amazing odds, she says. "Ultimately his work reminds us that we all possess an inherent talent which, once unlocked, can transform the way we live and connect with the world around us."



The golden beach close up

From the autism society and the MoE

"The Ministry of Education and Department of Education Services are proud to support The National Gallery during the Seth Chwast 'Icons of Cayman' exhibition. Through coordinated activities both at the Gallery and within our schools throughout the time, we expect that this opportunity will lead to greater awareness and appreciation by teachers, students, and community members of the valuable contributions to Cayman society which come from our children and adults who may experience unique individual differences."

Brent Holt

Head of Student Services
Department of Education Services