

Watercolour exhibition

WATERMARKS, the National Gallery's new exhibition by local artist April Bending, opens to the public on 2 April. Two water colour paintings, especially for the exhibition will go on display for the first time.

"Watermarks was conceived because there was so much damage to the local collection of water colours of the national museum from the hurricane," said Ms Bending. "The show was designed to replenish the works destroyed by Ivan."

Ms Bending is well known for her work in water colours and ceramic tiles, so it is no surprise that she was invited by the National Gallery as one of the watercolourists to submit her work.

"I wanted to paint the flora and the vegetation of things that can come back, so it symbolizes the renewal of the island."

One of two paintings by Ms Bending for the exhibit is 'Peaceful Palms,' which features a close-up of palm branches that move from the shadows into the light.

"There is a circular feeling to the branches, representing the cycle of life. The darkness of the hurricane is coming back into the light. The plant life that is regenerating – you feel that life is continuing as it should."

The second piece 'In my Caymanian garden' reflects a personality of the artist.



April Bending shows two small water colours at the National Gallery gift shop.

"This is a painting of my cat strolling through a garden of local flowers. It isn't my real garden, which is a small mountain of sand and rubble, but my fantasy garden. A garden you can put on the wall and pretend the way it should be.

"These paintings are an opportunity to show my interpretation about how I feel about Cayman. With the hurricane and all its disruption, Cayman is still a beautiful place and will continue to be a beautiful place."

In addition, Ms Bending has six small water colour

paintings available in the gift shop, coinciding with the main exhibition.

Ms Bending has been a professional artist for 35 years and has lived in Grand Cayman for four years. She works in numerous mediums including watercolour, acrylic, ceramic tiles and Japanese printing techniques. Examples of Ms Bending's work can be found at the National Gallery, Kennedy Gallery and Pure Art Gallery.

The Watermarks exhibition opens to the members on 31 March and to the public at the National Gallery at Harbour Place on 2 April.