



REMARKS BY

THE HON. K. H. RANDOLPH HORTON JP. MP.
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

The Annual School's Art Show

At the

Bermuda Society of Arts

Monday, 4th February, 2008, 5:30pm

To Ministers of the Government and Members of Parliament;

To the Co-Chairs Jean Gardner and Edward Smith of the Bermuda Society of Arts and their fellow members;

To Mr. Wendell 'Shine' Hayward, Education Officer, Ministry of Education and an accomplished and treasured saxophonist;

To all the students who have displayed their work here today, family, friends and lovers of the arts,

It gives me enormous pleasure to be here with all of you, especially our young artists, at this Annual School Art's Show. On behalf of the Government and the Ministry of Education, all of the students should know that we are very proud of the quality of their submissions and the energy they have showcased. These displays are a true testament to the respect our young students have for the talents they have been given and our presence here today allows us to show these students our appreciation for the discipline needed to create these masterpieces. I am also pleased today to notice that more and more of our young people are expressing themselves through the visual arts. This is an encouraging development.

An important part of our mission at the Ministry of Education is to inspire our young people by both positive and natural means. While many of our students, within our public and private school systems, excel by way of academics, their natural talent for the arts provides a vehicle of inspiration that draws them into a world of the imagination and creativity while offering us, as their parents, teachers and guardians, an opportunity to see them as they see themselves. We must continue to encourage their creativity and diversity while striking a delicate balance between our recognition of their need to fulfill their academic requirements and their overwhelming need to self express. We have many success stories through out our school system of those who have used their artistic talents to enhance their upward mobility. We must increase that number and if today is an indication, we are well on our way.

We cannot thank the Bermuda Society of Arts enough for affording our students this opportunity to share their talents with us. The Bermuda Society of Arts should know that their place in the art community as a first class presenter of the worlds most talented and respected artists and their most recent pursuit of another venue, befitting their stature, to showcase the master pieces has not escaped my notice. As Minister of Education, let me state today that I will continue to support those like the Bermuda Society of Arts. I believe I speak for the wider community by saluting the Society for their work in the preservation and presentation of individual artistic labours of love of Bermudian and foreign subjects. For our students to have their work displayed here in the city center provides a world of inspiration to their young minds that truly indicates that art has no boundaries, they are appreciated and the world is truly their canvass.

We would not be able to celebrate the work of our students without honouring all the teachers of the visual arts who teach and encourage these young people to excel. We are all aware that these young students draw their inspiration from us and that raw talent is refined by their teachers. These teachers should know that we appreciate their level of commitment. Look around you, the success of their labours are on display today.

I ask you to join me today in congratulating these students for an outstanding effort. All of the students should know that they have the full support of the Ministry and their

parents and we commit together to helping them to continue to be the very best that they can be.

In my humble opinion, as we prepare to judge all of the submissions, you are definitely all winners.

Thank you.