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**Portal to Paradise:
Bahama Breeze Launches Virtual Art Gallery on Web Site**

Now available for purchase online, paintings by Bruce Smith capture the spirit of the islands

ORLANDO (June, 2006) – In Bruce Smith’s paintings, sailboats toss playfully over bright blue Caribbean waves and palm trees sway in a balmy tropical breeze, alive with the rhythm of the islands. Brightly painted shops illuminated by a golden sun seem to beckon visitors to come inside. These alluring images of the distinctively warm and welcoming Caribbean lifestyle are now available for sale on the Web site of Bahama Breeze, the restaurant that brings you the feeling of a Caribbean escape. Visitors to www.bahamabreeze.com can browse a large collection of original Bruce Smith paintings in a virtual art gallery and purchase them online.

A self-taught artist, Smith found his muse while living and working in the Caribbean in the 1960s. His murals and paintings are on display throughout the Caribbean, from the British Virgin Islands to Grenada, as well as in all 32 Bahama Breeze restaurants in the U.S. His artwork has also been featured in books like Edward Hamilton’s *Rums of the Eastern Caribbean*.

“Ever since we opened the first Bahama Breeze over 10 years ago, guests have asked us where they can get artwork like the paintings they see in our restaurants,” said Laurie Burns, president of Bahama Breeze. “We’re very pleased to give them a way to do that and add a touch of the Caribbean to their home or office. In fact, I have several of Bruce’s Caribbean-inspired paintings in my office.”

Although he currently resides in the Pacific Northwest, Smith has once again heard the call of the West Indies and will sail back to the islands in November with his wife, Jan, aboard a gaff-rigged ketch he built, named “Woodwind.”

About Bahama Breeze

With 32 locations nationwide, Bahama Breeze feeds your island spirit with the food, drink and vibrant atmosphere you'd find in the islands. Recently added menu items include Breeze Wood Grilled Chicken Breast, Grilled Chicken Tostada, Lobster and Shrimp Pasta and a daily fresh fish sheet offering guests a choice of several fresh fish, preparations and side items. Most Bahama Breeze locations are open for lunch and dinner daily, from 11 a.m. until late, and all offer call-ahead seating.

The company is owned by Darden Restaurants, Inc. (NYSE: DRI) of Orlando, Fla., which also owns and operates Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Smokey Bones and Seasons 52.



Self-taught artist Bruce Smith depicts the colorful life of the islands