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**National Archaeological Museum Aruba**

**Receives Historic Preservation Award**

**Oranjestad, Aruba** -- Acclaimed USA architectural artist, Leisa Collins, who specializes in paintings of historic buildings, presented her latest Leisa Collins Historic Preservation Award on Thursday, August 28, 2025, to Pancho Geerman, the Director of the National Archaeological Museum, for the museum’s “outstanding contribution to historic and cultural preservation in Aruba, and for the rich educational service they provide both in Aruba and for all international visitors.”

The award, an original pen and watercolor framed painting by Collins, features the entire museum venue and restored Ecury dwellings, including the 1867 cunucu homes, the 1929 colonial mansion as well as an integrated modern structure.

“As a passenger of the Freewinds cruise ship, we are fortunate to spend time in Aruba, and I discovered the museum while exploring Oranjestad. I was extremely impressed with its vibrant visual appeal and the architectural contrasts within the beautifully restored Ecury complex and also found the history of this renowned family intriguing,” said Collins. “Once drawn into the museum, I was fascinated by the reconstructed dwellings, the multimedia displays as well as the hands-on interactive activities. I have been to many similar museums in different parts of the world, but the Aruba Museum is top-of-the-line in terms of providing enriched engagement,” she said.

It’s Collins’ 15th Historic Preservation Award since launching the recognition in 2013 as a way to give back to individuals and organizations who “exemplify historic and cultural preservation, therefore enriching the lives of those they touch.”

One of the most prolific artists of architectural subjects in the United States, Collins travels extensively and has created paintings of homes and historic buildings in all 50 USA states. She selected 650 of these works of art — as well as the fascinating stories behind many of them — to share with readers in her coffee table book, *Hand-Painted Homes: An Architectural Artist’s Pen and Watercolor Journey Across America*which was published in May 2021.

A full-time working artist, Collins’ work has been seen in many publications such as New York Times, Huffington Post and Los Angeles Times. Due to her fine eye toward detail and her deep respect and curiosity about the stories behind each home, Collins’ commissioned house portraits are always in high demand.

Said Collins, “My mission is to conserve communities and culture through my art. Any building with history has a cultural story and once it is destroyed it is lost forever. My goal is to leave a legacy that will help tell these stories in every painting and with each brushstroke. So that future generations may also value architectural and cultural treasures surrounding us and more importantly, the people who made them so.”

The museum, initially established in 1981, was re‑inaugurated in its current location in 2009 as the National Archaeological Museum Aruba. From a total collection of over 10,000 artifacts, only a fraction of these are presented in the permanent exhibition. They illustrate a timeline from approximately 1500 BCE to the 19th century covering Archaic, Ceramic, and Historic Cultural periods. Materials include pottery, shell, stone, bone, and glass, capturing facets of daily life, artistic expression, and early communication networks spanning Aruba, Europe, Mexico, and South America. Highlights of the exhibits include a limestone burial as well as thematic galleries offer immersive and interactive experiences.

For more information about the artist and her Leisa Collins Historic Preservation Award, <http://leisacollins.com/the-artist/leisa-collins-historic-preservation-award/>

Or visit her website at [www.leisacollins.com](http://www.leisacollins.com)

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