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Specializing in antiquarian prints, custom mirrors,
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MOUSE HOUSE, INC.
FRAMES & ANTIQUARIAN PRINTS

SC State Museum in Columbia

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pants use a variety of media as a means of expression and recovery, including oil and watercolor.

The DMH says that the program seeks not only to empower clients, but also to educate the public about, and dispel the stigma associated with, mental illness.

"The Art of Recovery program administered through the Department of Mental Health provides a unique service to the artists in the program, and a wonderful opportunity for the public to see what these artists are creating through various media that they are exploring in their work," said Matheny.

Among the pieces museum guests will see are *Two Men*, a 1996 charcoal pencil work by Tomara Moss, and *The Audience*, a 2012 creation of oil crayon, acrylic resin, phosphorous paint and glitter, by Robert Ashley.

The pieces are matted, framed and transported statewide by Department staff volunteers to galleries, libraries and other venues.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 803/898-4921 or visit (www.southcarolinastatemuseum.org).

Anastasia & Friends in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Blue Sky, Alexander Wilds & Anastasia Chernoff

Anastasia & Friends in Columbia, SC, will present a redux of an exhibition of paintings and sculpture by world class artists, Blue Sky and Alexander Wilds and gallery curator, Anastasia Chernoff called *Two for Three*, on view May 3 - 31, 2012. A reception will be held on May 3, from 6-9pm.

Legendary artist and Columbia native, Blue Sky is known worldwide for his paintings and murals and has received "best of show" awards at prestigious art shows all over the world, in addition to being featured in numerous international arts magazines and publications. His famous mural, *Tunnelvision*, is well known worldwide. *Two for Three* will feature assemblages from his critically acclaimed, traveling "Truck Butts" series.

Alexander Wilds spent many years in Japan as a sculptor and architectural designer and is now Associate Professor of Fine Art at Benedict College in Columbia. Page 24 - Carolina Arts, May 2012



Work by Alexander Wilds

Since 1974, Wilds has created a single
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figurative sculpture each year to document his progress as a sculptor. The show will feature several of these large scale sculptures from over the years in addition to other bronze and mixed media pieces.

Surrealist sculptor Anastasia Chernoff will feature two new, hanging sculptures created from stoneware and other mixed media from her most recent body of work,

"Salvation Series".

Anastasia and Friends is located in the front of the *Free Times*' building at 1534 Main Street, just across from the Columbia Museum of Art.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings or call Anastasia Chernoff at 803/665-6902.

Vista Studios in Columbia, SC, Offers Works by Michel McNinch

Vista Studios in Columbia, SC, will present the exhibit, *Channeling Myself and Other Goddesses*, on view in Gallery 80808, from May 11 - 22, 2012. A reception will be held on May 11, from 6-9pm.

"I never intended to show this work," says McNinch. "But it developed into something worth sharing. It is a result of an exercise in self-awareness. I have enjoyed this process and hope you enjoy the results."

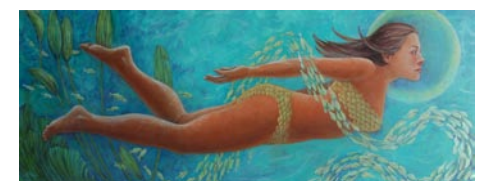
There are three distinct series of paintings in this show. In order of their origin, they are: Channels, Subconscious, and Goddesses.

"Channels" - During my father's illness and subsequent death I sought creative counseling. It was suggested that I attempt a visual prayer. With this suggestion in mind, my "Channels" series was born. It evolved into a treasured practice as I continued these prayers for the last two years.

"Subconscious" - These paintings were an attempt to paint what was beneath the surface of my present awareness. With nothing particular in mind, I chose a color and started painting. Each time I sat down to paint, I had no idea or direction. I painted on sheer instinct from the underlying influence of my subconscious. What freedom! What fun!

"Goddesses" - When researching for a

proposed workshop, I had the idea to use the accomplished women in my life to pose for Goddess paintings. It grew from there to be a very meaningful and rewarding endeavor to honor the many inspiring women in my life.



Work by Michel McNinch

May is traditionally the time of year I show new work. Although I never intended to show the "Channels" or "Subconscious" paintings, these experiments developed into something worth sharing. The "Goddess" paintings were done for pure pleasure. I have thoroughly enjoyed the process and hope that you will enjoy the results.

McNinch will also be showing her works at the 2012 *Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Exhibition* held in Marion Square in Charleston, SC, from May 25 through June 9, 10am-6pm daily.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/252-6134 or visit (www.vistastudios80808.com).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be May 24th for the June 2012 issue and June 24 for the July 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. Don't be late - send your info well before the deadline.