

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery

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For Immediate Release:

Sybil, Another View, The Artwork of Shirley Mason

Sybil, Another View, The Artwork of Shirley Mason will go on exhibit November 12 - January 4, 2008 at Fresh A.I.R. (Artists in Recovery) Gallery. The exhibit features the work of Shirley Ardell Mason, known to the world as the anonymous Sybil, the most famous multiple personality in psychiatric history.

The paintings tell the tortured story of Ms. Mason's struggle with severe Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly described as "multiple personality") brought on by horrific childhood physical and mental abuse by her mother. Ms. Mason's story was told in the 1973 bestseller, "Sybil", and later recounted in the Emmy Award winning movie "Sybil," starring Sally Field and Joanne Woodward. A remake of the original movie is currently in production and will air on CBS in late 2007.

The thirty paintings in this collection are important as some of the few authentic documents of Mason's production as an artist. All but two of the paintings are signed in cursive by the artist in her own handwriting, "S. Mason," mostly in ball point pen. It is likely that the paintings were signed "after the fact" as a result of the artist's effort to identify them as her authentic works.

It is possible that each of these artistic styles is the result of one or the other of Sybil's different personalities at work. Or, the variance in style be the result of the normal kind of artistic experimentation that any artist will engage in over the span of his/her career.

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is located at 131 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. 614.744.8110. Gallery hours are Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The gallery is free and open to the public.

Electronic files of the artwork and interviews are available.

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P. 2 Sybil, Another View, The Artwork of Shirley Mason

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery's mission is to exhibit the works of individuals affected by mental illness and those with substance abuse disorders. Through art, we work to break down the stigma of mental illness by bringing focus to the artistic vision. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is operated by Southeast Inc. Southeast Inc. is a comprehensive mental health, chemical dependency, and healthcare organization that has been serving Columbus and Franklin County since 1978. Southeast, Inc.'s mission to be a comprehensive provider of mental health, chemical dependency, healthcare, and homeless services assisting diverse populations regardless of their economic status. With the belief that all people have the capacity to grow and change, we provide our services to people of all ages, cultures, races, religious preferences, genders, and sexual orientations in order to enhance wellness and recovery, thereby improving families, workplaces, and communities. Southeast, Inc. is also accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) that focuses on commitment to continuous quality improvement. Southeast, Inc. is located at 16 West Long Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 225-0980 * TTY (614) 225-0986 * Fax (614) 225-0986 or visit www.southeastinc.com.



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