

# Fresh A.I.R. Gallery

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**March 1, 2007**

**CONTACT: Myken Lint,**

**Public Affairs Coordinator**

614.225.0985 ext. 1206 or

[lintm@southeastinc.com](mailto:lintm@southeastinc.com)

## **A Gift and a Curse**

An exhibition of new work featuring the latest drawings and sculpture

by Chris Mohler

Columbus Ohio, Fresh A.I.R. (Artists in Recovery) Gallery will feature “A Gift and a Curse”, an exhibition of new work by renowned local artist, **Chris Mohler, from March 14 – April 27, 2007. Artist’s opening reception is March 14, 2007 5:30-7:30, free and open to the public. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is located at 131 N. High Street, downtown Columbus, Ohio 43215.**

Over the past 30 years, Chris Mohler has been hard at work in his studio welding metal to create fantastic steel sculptures and mixed media drawings. His work dots Columbus and is currently installed at the popular Bar of Modern Art (BoMa) in downtown Columbus. The work in this show is new, created in the last two years. It includes black geometric wall hangings, and lots of other geometric work. (Some may recognize a similar trend in the work of famous sculptor David Smith, who passed away in 1965. He also did an array of complex works whose style changed to geometry later in life.) He’s also showing 32 x 40 inch chalk on paper drawings that he’s been doing since 1997.

Chris has established himself as a highly respected and talented artist but indicates he was given a gift and a curse in life. Chris lives with a mental illness called Bipolar Disorder.

**-more-**

## **P. 2 Chris Mohler – “A Gift and a Curse”– Fresh A.I.R. Gallery**

Bipolar Disorder (also known as manic depression) is a serious medical illness that causes shifts in a person's mood, energy, and ability to function. Different from the normal ups and downs that everyone goes through, the symptoms of bipolar disorder are severe. It is not a weakness of character, family or faith, or something you can resolve on your own. “The bipolar would have killed me years ago if I weren't an artist. The last six years when it gets so bad that I'm looking for tall buildings or ropes, I instead go to the studio and destroy art. I've easily destroyed over a hundred pieces,” says Chris. For more information on Bipolar Disorder, contact the Southeast, Inc. or the Mental Health of America website at [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org).

Chris' inspiration and style have developed over the years, and include influences from science, with the older work involving chaos theory and the new, geometry.

“I'm so grateful for being alive! I was given a mission. I accepted it and ran with it. Art is my life. Art has given me life. Art gives me life,” states Chris Mohler.

Visit the Fresh A.I.R. Gallery and meet Chris Mohler on March 14 5:30-7:30pm for the opening reception celebration. Gallery hours are Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:30pm. 614.744-8110. [www.southeastinc.com](http://www.southeastinc.com). [www.chrismohler.com](http://www.chrismohler.com).

**-more-**

**P. 3 Chris Mohler – “A Gift and a Curse”– Fresh A.I.R. Gallery**



Fresh A.I.R. Gallery mission is to exhibit the works of individuals affected with 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.

**- more-**

**P. 4 Chris Mohler – “A Gift and a Curse”– Fresh A.I.R. Gallery**

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](http://www.southeastinc.com).



###