



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL ART PATIENTS IN ‘FOOD FOR THOUGHT’ EXHIBIT

WHITFIELD— Mississippi State Hospital clients are participating in an art exhibit with Donna Davis and Pearl River Glass Studio as part of the Mississippi Humanities Council’s “Food for Thought, for Life” exhibit.

Their paintings, drawings, collages and prints will be on display at the Mississippi Library Commission until June 29. The show was made possible by an award from the Mississippi Humanities Council, and includes work from MSH patients, Jaquith Nursing Home residents, and MSH Community Services Clients.

The show also features glass work by Donna Davis and Pearl River Glass Studio, but the work by MSH patients and clients was created over the past several months during their time spent in Mississippi State Hospital Art Services classes.

MSH Art Services Director Evelyn Bates and art instructors Tony DiFatta and Ron Lindsey worked with the patients as they took part in the Mississippi Humanities Council’s statewide conversation about the aesthetics, ethics and politics of food.

“For several weeks prior to this show the Art Services staff encouraged our students to look to food as inspiration for art,” Lindsey said. “Sometimes actual still lifes of fruit and vegetables were set up in the classes for drawing and painting. Art history was discussed as we looked at well-known artist famous for their ‘food’ paintings.

“The project encouraged lots of fun conversations, unique perspectives and gratifying results.”

The Mississippi Humanities Council is supported by Congress through the National Endowment for the Humanities and by the generosity of individual donors. The exhibit is free and open to the public. It is located at 3881 Eastwood Drive in Jackson.

MSH, a facility of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and facilitates improvement in the quality of life for Mississippians who are in need of mental health, chemical dependency or nursing home services, by rehabilitating to the least restrictive environment, utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services, which reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

- 30 -

PHOTO ATTACHED: Pictured are (left to right) Mississippi Library Commission Director Sharman Smith, Mississippi State Hospital art instructor Ron Lindsey and Mississippi Humanities Council Executive Director Dr. Barbara Carpenter, at the opening reception for the “Food for Thought, for Life” initiative.