



MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL

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MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL'S 'SERENDIPITY' IS SEPTEMBER 4

WHITFIELD — Mississippi State Hospital is preparing for a very special event this September.

The 25th anniversary of Serendipity, the hospital's annual art show and silent auction, will be at Mississippi State Hospital on Thursday, September 4, 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. The event features artwork and ceramics created by individuals receiving services at the hospital who are participating in its Art Services Program.

"We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of Serendipity this year thanks to the support we have received from people all over the state," said Evelyn Bates, Director of the Art Services Program at MSH. "We would like to invite everyone to come and join us in celebrating this milestone."

Serendipity is an annual highlight at Mississippi State Hospital, with hundreds of visitors typically visiting and bidding on the work each year. The show is unique in that all of the work on display was created by individuals served at the hospital.

Bates said their work is expressive and creative, whether or not they have had any formal instruction before taking part in her program.

"The interest and eagerness our visitors have in bidding on this art is a testament to the value of the work created by the individuals in this program," she said. "These pieces are individual expressions of the artists. Each piece is unique, and that is something that people really respond to."

The show typically contains ceramics, pencil drawings, paintings in various styles and formats, and other mixed media. Bidding takes place via silent auction, and while bidders do not have to be present when bidding ends at 6 p.m. to win, they probably want to be there if they have their hearts set on a specific piece, since there is usually a rush for last-minute bids as time winds down.

Bates said that fact adds to the value the artists get out of the creative process.

"The self-expression is evident in the work, but seeing their work displayed in a show and knowing the worth other people are placing on their art does great things for our artists' self-esteem and self-worth," Bates said. "It helps them to see the value they have in themselves."

Many visitors return to the hospital for the show year after year. Anyone is welcome to visit the campus and view the show. All of the pieces on display will be available for bidding through silent auction. Bidding will take place from 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. on September 4.

“Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us for this milestone year,” Bates said.

MSH, a program 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 and utilizing a range of psychiatric and medical services that reflect the accepted standard of care and are in compliance with statutory and regulatory guidelines. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

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PHOTOS ATTACHED: Mississippi State Hospital’s “Serendipity,” an art show and silent auction, will be Thursday, September 4 at the hospital. The show, which contains work created by participants in the hospital’s Art Services Program, is an annual event held the first Thursday of each September. The pieces pictured here are among those that will be in the show.