

The Mississippi State Hospital Art Services Program offers structured art classes for adolescents of Oak Circle Center, individuals served in adult psychiatric and substance use services, and residents of Jaquith Nursing Home.

Classes may be individual or group sessions and are designed to meet a wide range of therapeutic needs, as well as to increase competency in self-expression, visual communication, creative processes and cognitive understanding of art materials and methods.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES:

- Enhances Self Esteem
- Provides an outlet for Creative Expression
- Cultivates Competency in the Use of Art Materials and Concepts
- Promotes Positive Use of Leisure Time
- Gives Opportunity to Learn New Skills or Broaden Current Abilities
- Develops or Maintains Motor Skills
- Enriches Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication
- Enhances Creative Thinking and Problem-Solving
- Broadens Cultural Literacy
- Encourages Appropriate Social Skills
- Provides a venue for Independence



2018 Serendipity Art exhibit.

MSH ART SERVICES STAFF



CECI WHITEHURST:

Ceci Whitehurst, Supervisor for the Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) Art Services Department, holds a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and a Master's in Special Education. She is certified in Elementary Education, Special Education, and Art with more than 23 years of teaching experience. Her employment at MSH began in 2007, serving for more than 10 years in the art program. She enjoys working with all the varied patient programs and the residents of Jaquith Nursing Home.



RICKY SHELBY:

Ricky Shelby holds a bachelor's in Studio Art from Jackson State University and has studied at The Academy of Art University in San Francisco. His experience includes the Expressive Arts Department at Boswell Regional Center in Magee, and work as a sculptor and finisher of life-like somatic prostheses using art as a way to help clients acclimate to their new prosthesis. Most recently, he worked in pediatrics at UMMC using art as a coping mechanism for trauma patients and/or behavioral health issues. He joined the MSH Art Services Department in June 2019.



SHAWN CAGLE:

Shawn Cagle is the instructor for the Horticulture and Hobby Crafts division of the Art Services Department. Shawn has more than 35 years of service to MSH beginning in direct care and then transitioning into an instructor for Central Mississippi Industries (CMI). CMI, a skilled workshop program under the direction of MSH, focused on learning skills that would assist individuals in transitioning to the community. In his current position he works with all populations of MSH and focuses on activities for leisure enhancement and skill development.

SERENDIPITY

ART SHOW & SILENT AUCTION

An Annual exhibit of artwork created by participants in Art Services at Mississippi State Hospital.



35TH
Anniversary
2024



SERENDIPITY

ART SHOW & SILENT AUCTION

OCTOBER 01, 1989

The first MSH art exhibit began as a gallery sale at the Mississippi Museum of Art. The show was called "A First Look". The second exhibit in 1990 was named "A Second Look" followed by "Look Again" in 1991. After deciding to continue the exhibit as an annual event an official name was needed. After a long meeting with much debate on names, a participant commented how serendipitous her visit to MSH was and "Serendipity" was born.



SEPTEMBER 01, 1994

The art program continued to grow and Serendipity garnered more attention than ever during its 5th Anniversary show. Following the annual event, a joint exhibit with South Mississippi Regional Center was hosted on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Art Who Gallery in Ocean Springs featured works from MSH including 75 pieces of artwork and 20 pieces of ceramics. Earlier in the year, Wyatt Waters, a nationally recognized watercolor artist from Clinton, provided a hands-on art session for MSH patients.

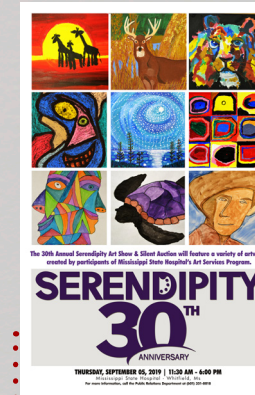


2005 - Hurricane Katrina's arrival postponed the 2005 Serendipity Art Show to September 29. One of the artists, a Biloxi native, completed this piece prior to landfall featuring Katrina as the saxophone player blowing the wind and water onto the coast. It sold for \$700. BankPlus matched that bid with donated funds to relief efforts on the coast.



SEPTEMBER 03, 2009

Dogwood Festival Belk in Flowood celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Serendipity with a preview exhibit during the month of August. The 2009 show featured 300 pieces of work by 150 artists from MSH.



SEPTEMBER 05, 2019

The 30th Anniversary of Serendipity featured art work and ceramics. Under new leadership and a new team of instructors, the art program continues to flourish and provide an ongoing therapeutic outlet for patients and residents.

2024 - 35 years of excellence in art continues, combining a virtual and in-person show! Bidding opens August 1, online at myminiauction.com/serendipity. The in-person show is scheduled for Thursday, September 5!

1992

1992

The first officially named Serendipity Art Exhibit and Silent Auction.

1994



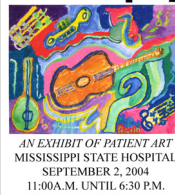
SEPTEMBER 02, 1999

The 10th Anniversary of Serendipity was celebrated with sponsorship from Janssen Pharmaceutica and the Allegrezza Piano Co. Inc, featuring a beautiful evening reception along with a player grand piano for background music. More than 200 pieces of work were on exhibit to the public.

1999

SEPTEMBER 02, 2004 Serendipity

In 2004, a preview exhibit was hosted at the G. Chastaine Flynt Memorial Library in Flowood, gaining a lot of attention for the upcoming show at MSH. The preview paid off with more than 400 guests visiting the show including Sweet Potato, Queen Jill Conner Browne.



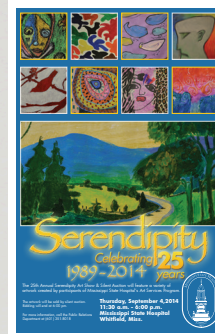
2004

2009

2014

SEPTEMBER 04, 2014

The 25th Anniversary of Serendipity included 207 pieces of work with more than 500 visitors viewing the show. Longtime art services director and instructor, Evelyn Bates, also celebrated 25 years of service to MSH. Ms. Bates was part of the team that helped launch that first show back in 1989. Her drive and love for the art program helped sustain and grow the program through the years.



2019



2020 - The COVID 19 Pandemic brought the world to a halt and prevented in-person events. However, it didn't stop Serendipity - we went virtual! An online walk-through art gallery allowed the artists to view their work framed and professionally hung. In lieu of the artists reception, goodie bags and treats were delivered. We also learned the power of the internet. The virtual show garnered more than 2900 views, far more than the average of 400-600 in-person visitors previously. Bids came from family members that had been unable to attend before due to the distance, and from people around the country including Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and New York. There were 104 pieces in the show. The highest grossing piece was "First Breath of Spring", an acrylic painting going for \$375.

2024

TIME LINE