

# Alabama Artists Gallery

*The Alabama State Council on the Arts is proud to showcase the work of Alabama artists in its Montgomery gallery in the RSA Tower*

*Hours are Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

## Time For Play: Festive Thoughts & Whimsical Expressions

**November 5 – January 7, 2011**

This exhibition presents the work of four artists, including stitchery, drawing, clay sculpture, and a special collection of carved carousel animals.

**Martha Beadle**, Florence: calls her work "Needle Eccentricities." The pieces are hand-stitched from scraps of re-cycled fabric, beads, antique buttons, wire, bottle caps and other findings. Each piece is anchored with a quote, a line from a song or a line of poetry. She says her creations are "intensely personal and heartfelt," bringing her much joy and happiness. She exhibits her work at art festivals throughout the south. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, Tuscumbia.

**Ira Chaffin**, Chaffin Carousel Carving School, Birmingham: Chaffin has been carving full-size carousel horses using traditional techniques since 1999. He also offers carousel-carving classes in his Birmingham studio, where he generally has 6 to 8 students working on various projects. The pieces on exhibit include his work and work by his students. (Rick Crowley, Mrs. Jean Hahn, Dr. Dennis Pappas) None of these pieces has operated as part of a working carousel. For each piece, Chaffin glues timber to make a wooden form, which is then carefully carved and painted to bring it to life. Carousel carving is rapidly becoming a lost art.

**C. Nelson Grice**, Maylene: Grice uses clay to express his humorous observations and uninhibited perspective of the world. He creates a series of design modules using slabs of clay and cuts and knits them together. Pieces are raku or electric fired and painted. He received his BFA from the University of Montevallo in 1994 with a concentration in ceramics and painting. He also holds a M.Ed. (1996) and teaches in the art department at Hoover High School. He exhibits his work at art festivals and in galleries throughout the south, and his work is in the permanent collection of the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, Tuscumbia.

**Don Stewart**, Birmingham: Stewart takes an intellectual, yet humorous approach to art. He uses a ballpoint pen to create black and white drawings, which come alive with hidden images and visual puns. These composite drawings are each designed around a consistent theme that relates directly to the final image. Stewart received his M.D. in 1985 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed an internship in surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, but the lifestyle of a surgical resident proved to be at odds with his creative side. He left the medical field and has since worked as a graphic artist, writer, and creative consultant through his company, DS Art.



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