

trendsetters

E m e r g i n g A r t i s t s

Carol Christie



Flower power is the key to success for Abstract Expressionist Carol Christie, who brings a therapeutic touch to stunning floral designs. "My mother died when I was quite young. We always had an incredible garden. Hence, flowers evoke a feeling of love and home to me. They are happy and colorful and full of energy and life, and almost everyone loves flowers," she says. "Flowers allow me to paint what I feel... not what I see."

From vibrant acrylics and mixed media paintings to brightly hued folk art, Christie's work is fresh and spontaneous. In memory of her mother, her folk art is signed "Annie Mae." Influenced by her mother's sunny disposition and a lifelong love of plants and flora, Christie's passion for painting whimsical flowers captivates both adults and children of all ages.

With its light-hearted, carefree quality—Christie's creations are fun and fanciful. Her style, unmistakably her own, has been described as playful yet thoughtful; electric yet warm and emotive; sophisticated yet primitive. "It just makes me smile" is a recurring comment of buyers. It is the public's heart-warming reaction that keeps Carol painting the buds and blooms in masterpieces that she refers to as "feel good" art.

As an accomplished pianist, listening to classical music fertilizes her paint-

ing process. "Experiencing the music allows me to paint what I feel, rather than thinking of what, and how, to paint. I often feel that I am composing melodies in paint."

There is no more obvious symbol of vitality and resurrection than the annual regeneration of flowering plants, she says. A stroll in Christie's garden of work fills the senses with renewal—you'll see tulips, roses, sunflowers, and poppies—all of them whispering hidden messages that perfume the air. And, like Van Gogh's famous sunflowers, Christie's blossoms hold at their heart a simple parable about the brevity of life. They represent varying stages in the life cycle, from withered and wilting to bustling full bloom.

In addition to the splendor of larger-than-life flowers, and as a diversion, Christie has begun to paint nudes. "Contemplation" is one of 15 paintings in a series, completed in 2004 for a solo show entitled "Metamorphosis: An Artistic Exploration of Emergence," in which women are depicted in quiet, introspective poses on the threshold of psychological change. "Actually, I have discovered that the human figure is very much like a flower. The movement, fluidity and gracefulness of the human body contains the same lines and curves and feelings of my florals. My nudes are about where I am emotionally in a specific moment in time."

Whether it's the way the flowers tumble out of a vase, or the way a nude unfolds during the many seasons of her life—the soft, melodic rhythm of genesis and growth flows in Christie's work. For more information, call 770-518-7379; e-mail carolchristie@yahoo.com; visit www.carolchristie.com. **ABN**



▲ "Poppy Fields"



▲ "Tender Moments"