

- calendar
- celebrity profiles
- dining
- fashion
- health & beauty
- homes
- kidstuff
- parties
- seen & heard
- **interactive ads**
- shopping
- travel
- weddings



## Carol Christie's Art with Heart

BY REGINA LYNCH-HUDSON

When it comes to art, Carol Christie is as gifted as a gardener with a green thumb – and then some. Her wonderfully whimsical works blossom from the canvas in a burst of color, the seeds sown by the pride and passion of this abstract expressionist.

“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.”

Born in Michigan in 1946, Christie studied art education at Central Michigan University. The former kindergarten teacher relocated to Atlanta in 1969 to raise her family, and she continued her artistic journey along the way. Her bold, colorful work has since appeared in juried shows and prominent galleries, as well as private collections worldwide.

From vibrant acrylics and mixed media paintings to brightly hued folk art (signed “Annie Mae” in memory of her mom), Christie’s work is fresh and spontaneous. Influenced by her mother’s sunny disposition and lifelong love of flora, Christie’s flower-powered painting captivates both adults and children alike. Her creations are fun and fanciful, with an unmistakable style. “It makes me smile,” buyers often comment. Christie says it’s just such a reaction that nourishes the buds and blooms in her “feel good” art.

Christie’s concept of the flower is an amazing three-dimensional structure. She finds within each flower or arrangement a naturalistic appeal which says something about the character of each petal. There is no more obvious symbol of vitality than the annual regeneration of flowering plants, she says. 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.

A brilliant parade of poppies nod their red heads in *Poppy Field*. En route to the Blue Ridge Mountains, Christie spied the scarlet beauties in a lush field of golden grass, framed by purple mountains and a cobalt sky. “It took my breath away,” she

- SEEN & HEARD
- feature articles
- dogwood festival
- celebrity sightings
- georgia vineyards
- mall happenings
- art with heart

recalls. “Amazing how nature puts together its own palette of primary colors. All we have to do is learn to pay attention.”

In *Tender Moments*, a lovely yellow tulip entralls its young viewers. The painting was inspired by a photo sent by a friend, who wrote, “Is there anything more tender than children sharing such innocent moments?”

In addition to her larger than life flowers, Christie also paints nudes. “Actually, I have discovered that the human figure is very much like a flower,” she says. “The movement, fluidity and gracefulness of the human body contains the same lines and curves and feelings of my florals.”

Carol Christie's work is available at Raiford Gallery in Roswell and High Country Art, Historic Blue Ridge, Georgia. It can be viewed at [www.carolchristie.com](http://www.carolchristie.com).

PICTURED AT TOP: TENDER MOMENTS AND POPPY FIELD BY CAROL CHRISTIE.