

NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact: Tom Banks, (256) 543-2787, ext. 38; tombanks@culturalarts.org
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New Exhibition of Abstract Work at the Hardin Center

GADSDEN, AL: The Hardin Center recently opened a new exhibition, *Abstractions by Anne Marchand*, featuring bold, colorful, large-scale abstract paintings by Washington, DC artist Anne Marchand. The artist's style can be described as blending abstraction with astronomical influences.

Born in New Orleans, Anne Marchand says that growing up in such a colorful environment left a lasting impression on her color sensibility. She traveled widely throughout the South, which had a similarly profound effect on her developing a visual vocabulary of form and color derived from nature. She earned a bachelor's degree in art from Auburn University in 1971 and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Georgia in 1975. Since the late seventies, she has lived and worked in Washington D.C.

Her vibrant paintings are alive with shifting space, moving color, and animated lines. They reflect a range of perspectives: images of deep space, views from airplanes and automobiles, perceptions of natural and manmade textures and patterns, along with their emotional resonances, all distilled together.

Images of planets from the Hubble telescope inspired the painter to introduce circular imagery into her work. The nebulas and galaxies suggested biological structures, and Marchand realized the connection between space and the body as manifestations of the same universal energy. Her paintings capture a sense of wonder, introspection, and imagination.

"Space, color and mystery are calling cards to begin the work of layering materials on canvas," said Marchand. "Moving with both conscious and spontaneous actions, I combine themes of spirit and matter. My choice of materials conveys transparent layers and depth of meaning reflecting the mysteries of creation and destruction. The painting process is metaphor for patterns emerging in nature and from invisible forces. I am drawn to images that open the viewer to questions about personal experience, consciousness and transformation."

The exhibition is open daily through September 14. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm and Sunday from 1 to 5 pm. Admission is free for Hardin Center members, \$8 for non-members ages 2 and up, and free for children under 24 months. Admission includes Imagination Place Children's Museum. Learn more at culturalarts.org or by calling (256) 543-ARTS.

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