

Life & Style

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FHS grad opens Art Exhibit

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JACKSON – “The biggest gift from God isn’t the talent, but the drive to dedicate yourself to do it,” Jerrod Partridge, aspiring artist said of his quest to become an accomplished artist.

Partridge, a 1995 graduate of Forest High School, opened his first solo exhibition as a professional artist Thursday evening at Gallery 119 in Jackson. The show is titled “Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience.”

“Having my solo show is very exciting,” Partridge said. “Opening night went very well.”

The exhibit is a series of narrative-based oil paintings on paper and canvas. The exhibit also displays a selection of drawings.

“The exhibit is a conceptual series of paintings broken into two groups,” Partridge said. “The theme of the show reveals the concept of the presence and passing of youthful idealism.”

Partridge said the subject matter is especially personal to him as a young father of two children.

“It is very relative to the point I am in my life, with me having to be a lot more of a father figure... becoming more of a grown-up,” Partridge said.

The Songs of Innocence paintings



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One of the paintings included in the Songs of Innocence series is this 30x30 depiction entitled, *The Perfect Offering*. Displays such as this can be viewed with Artist Jerrod Partridge’s exhibit at Gallery 119 until May 6.

were created on 30x30 sheets of paper Partridge made himself from paper pulp. The frailness of the paper is meant to represent the delicateness of the Songs of Innocence group in the series.

The Songs of Experience paintings were created on canvas in three different sizes. All paintings in the exhibit are narrative scenes, but not clearly defined narratives.



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Conducting a drawing demonstration for the Mississippi Watercolor Society member meeting last year, Jackson artist and Forest High School graduate Jerrod Partridge shares his love for art through teaching. He also teaches figure drawing at Gallery 119.

The scenes are designed so the viewers can determine their own impressions of each of the pieces, Partridge said.

The beginning

While Partridge was a student at FHS, he loved to draw.

See PARTRIDGE, 8B

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Partridge

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“I have always loved to draw,” Partridge said. “During high school, Barbara Gatewood was a big encouragement to me in pursuing my future as an artist.”

Partridge took his first art class in college at Mississippi College.

“I fell in love with it,” Partridge said. Partridge earned his undergrad degree in graphic design from MC.

He began working in graphic design but decided to continue his art education at the New York Academy of Art. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the NYAA in 2004. He has also studied painting with Bob Pennebaker of Star, and Dan Thompson of New York City. He and his wife, Jessie Boutwell Partridge, high school sweethearts, returned from New York, and Partridge worked in the graphic design until last April when the opportunity for the exhibit emerged and he was awarded a Creative Artist Grant from the Greater Jackson Arts Council to assist with the exhibition.

Along with working on the



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Part of the Songs of Innocence segment of Artist Jerrod Partridge’s exhibit titled, “Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience,” this 30x30 painting shows how Partridge left the narrative scenes in the exhibit open for his audience to personally define their meaning.

exhibit and creating commissioned portraits, Partridge also teaches figure drawing at Gallery 119. He is author of the Jackson Art Seen blog, which features art shows around the Jackson area. He is co-creator of the Sketchbook Conversation blog, which records visual conversations between artists by way of physical sketchbooks.

Partridge said he is especially

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excited about his most recent commissioned portrait of the Presidential Portrait for Millsaps College in Jackson of Dr. Frances Lucas. The portrait will be unveiled at a special ceremony honoring Dr. Lucas on April 22.

The Future

Partridge said he hopes to continue his current success as an artist and support his family “being a professional artist. So far I have been able to do this and I hope I will be able to continue this,” Partridge said.

The Partridges have two children, a son, Ren, 4 and a daughter, Mae, 2. Jerrod is the son of Larry and Dorothy Partridge, former Forest residents, now living in Magee and is the son-in-law of Forest natives, John and Beverly Boutwell.

Partridge’s exhibit featured will be at Gallery 119 until May 6. The exhibit can be viewed at the gallery from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments may also be made to view the exhibit by calling 601-969-4091. Gallery 119 is located in downtown Jackson at 119 S. President St.