



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**ABILITIES 2006 HIGHLIGHTS ARTISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MENTAL ILLNESS**

HONOLULU - The Adult Mental Health Division of the Hawaii Department of Health and VSAarts Hawaii-Pacific are proud to announce Abilities 2006, the fourth annual visual arts exhibit that highlights the artistic accomplishments of people affected by mental illness. Through showcasing their talents, Abilities 2006 seeks to reduce discrimination against people who are living with mental illness.

The juried exhibit will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> during Mental Health Awareness Month at the Studio of Roy Venters, 1160 Nuuanu Avenue in Honolulu. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, May 4 from 6:30-8:30 PM.

This year, 32 local artists submitted 137 works of visual art including paintings, drawings, pastels, collages, photographs, mixed media, and three-dimensional art. Jurors chose 41 pieces by 18 artists from, Oahu, the Big Island and Maui. Abilities jurors are local artists Duane Preble (painter, photographer, co-author of Artforms), Astumi Yamamoto (painter), and Philippe Gross (photographer, research psychologist, and co-author of The Tao of Photography: Seeing Beyond Seeing).

The exhibit provides an avenue that could transform the lives of the participating artists as well as the public who could find meaning and beauty in the artwork.

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