



**For Immediate Release**

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## *Fresh A.I.R. Gallery*

Presents

# Places I'd Like To Be

By Maria Tacon

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery cordially invites you to the opening reception for ***Places I'd Like To Be***, an exhibition featuring the work of Columbus artist Maria Tacon.

Join us for the artist's opening reception on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. *Places I'd Like To Be* will be on view at Fresh A.I.R. Gallery until June 22, 2018.

Maria states in her artist statement - "My mental illness is not for everyone. It's repetitive and people grow tired of it. But it will never go away. When I was 10 in 1989, my father killed himself on Father's Day. He had been sick. This crushed me and affected my life in a big way. I always wanted to be just like him. His name was Michael Tacon. I now sign my paintings M. Tacon, the same way he did, to keep his name and spirit alive. My mother always encouraged me to create art, and she would buy me supplies and enroll me in classes. Over the years, I've studied painting, drawing, and ceramics at several schools and centers. I've exhibited my work in numerous group shows, in arts markets, and at events like Fresh A.I.R. Gallery's Art of Recovery fundraiser but this is my first solo exhibition."

Maria says, "Painting is very calming to me because I have to concentrate really hard. I want everything to be perfect. Sometimes I paint fast, and other times I paint slowly. I struggle with insomnia, and I sometimes stay up all night to create work. I can get so excited about a painting."

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery (Artists in Recovery) is a project of Southeast Healthcare Services.

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery's mission is to exhibit the work by individuals affected by mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Through art, we educate the community and work to break down the stigma of mental illness and/or substance use by bringing focus to the artist vision. Southeast is a comprehensive provider of mental health, chemical dependency, physical healthcare, vocational and homeless services that has been serving Columbus since 1978 and is in eight Ohio counties. This year Southeast celebrates 40 years. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is located downtown at 131 N. High Street in Columbus, Ohio. Our hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:30 pm. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery's phone number is 614-744-8110. [www.southeastinc.com](http://www.southeastinc.com).

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