

For Immediate Release

August 5, 2011

Contact: Myken Pullins, Public Affairs Coordinator

614.225.0980 or pullinsm@southeastinc.com

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery

Presents

Medicine Man Calen Pick

Columbus, Ohio – (43215) – Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to present **Medicine Man** featuring the artwork of **Calen Pick**.

Please join us for the artist's opening reception on **Wednesday, September 14, 2011 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Fresh A.I.R. Gallery**. The exhibition will run through November 18. The reception is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is located at 131 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Calen Pick, 30 years old, from Bozeman, Montana creates artwork primarily in oil paintings and explains his art is an integral part of his recovery from schizoaffective disorder. “When I’m painting, there’s a strong feeling of joy. It’s like concentrating without concentrating, hours fly by. It’s therapeutic. It’s what I really want to do the rest of my life. Most of the time, my artwork exhibits elements of my dreams.

-over-

Page. 2 – Medicine Man, Calen Pick

I prefer the inspiration brought by thinking in a waking state of introspection. Some people say that art helps them communicate things that are too hard to say.

I agree, but I also find this concept has the potential to isolate an artist. I have accepted that each person who views my art will think or see something different from the next person. Therefore, what does it matter that I try to communicate through the abstract.”

Calen’s mother, Jessie Close, who has experienced the effects of bipolar disorder, has teamed up with her sister and Calen’s aunt, Oscar nominated actress Glenn Close, to bust the stigma and educate the community about mental illness through their national anti-stigma campaign called BringChange2Mind. www.bringchange2mind.org. Check out the PSAs featuring the Close and Pick family.

As family members and people living with mental illness, Jessie and Calen bring a strong voice to the national stage to end stigma, encourage recovery, and support families. Bring Change 2 Mind is a not-for-profit organization created by Oscar Nominated actress Glenn Close, the Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation, Fountain House, and Garen and Shari Staglin of the International Mental Health Research Organization. The idea of this national anti-stigma campaign was born from the partnership between Glenn Close and Fountain House where Glenn volunteered, in order to learn about mental illness, which both her sister, Jessie Close, and nephew, Calen Pick, live with.

Bring Change 2 Mind promotes recovery and works to end stigma through a national media campaign. This is the first effort of this magnitude in U.S. history. Director Ron Howard generously donated his time in directing the first PSA that features Glenn and Jessie Close. John Mayer generously donated his song, Say, which serves as an anthem for this movement. For more information please visit www.BringChange2Mind.org. We honor the Close and Pick family for their willingness to share their personal story as an example of the power of Recovery.

-over-

Page. 3 – Medicine Man, Calen Pick

Calen and his mother Jessie will be honored at this year's Art of Recovery event on Friday November 4 benefiting the Fresh A.I.R. Gallery. To purchase tickets or for more information about the Art of Recovery contact Myken Pullins at 614.225.0980 or pullinsm@southeastinc.com.

“Overall, I create my artwork because I love to do it. It is a physical result of my intangible self. So in some sense, every piece of art is a product of my focus. Whether that is on a concept, method, or simply about color or form.”

For more images of Calen's artwork please visit www.calenpick.com

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery's mission is to exhibit the works of these individuals affected by mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders. Through art, we educate the community and work to break down the stigma of mental illness by bringing focus to the artistic vision.

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is operated by Southeast Inc. Southeast Inc. is a comprehensive provider of mental health, chemical dependency, physical healthcare and homeless services that has been serving Columbus since 1978 and five surrounding counties. Southeast's telephone number is (614) 225-0980 or Fax (614) 225-0986 or visit <http://www.southeastinc.com/freshair>

#