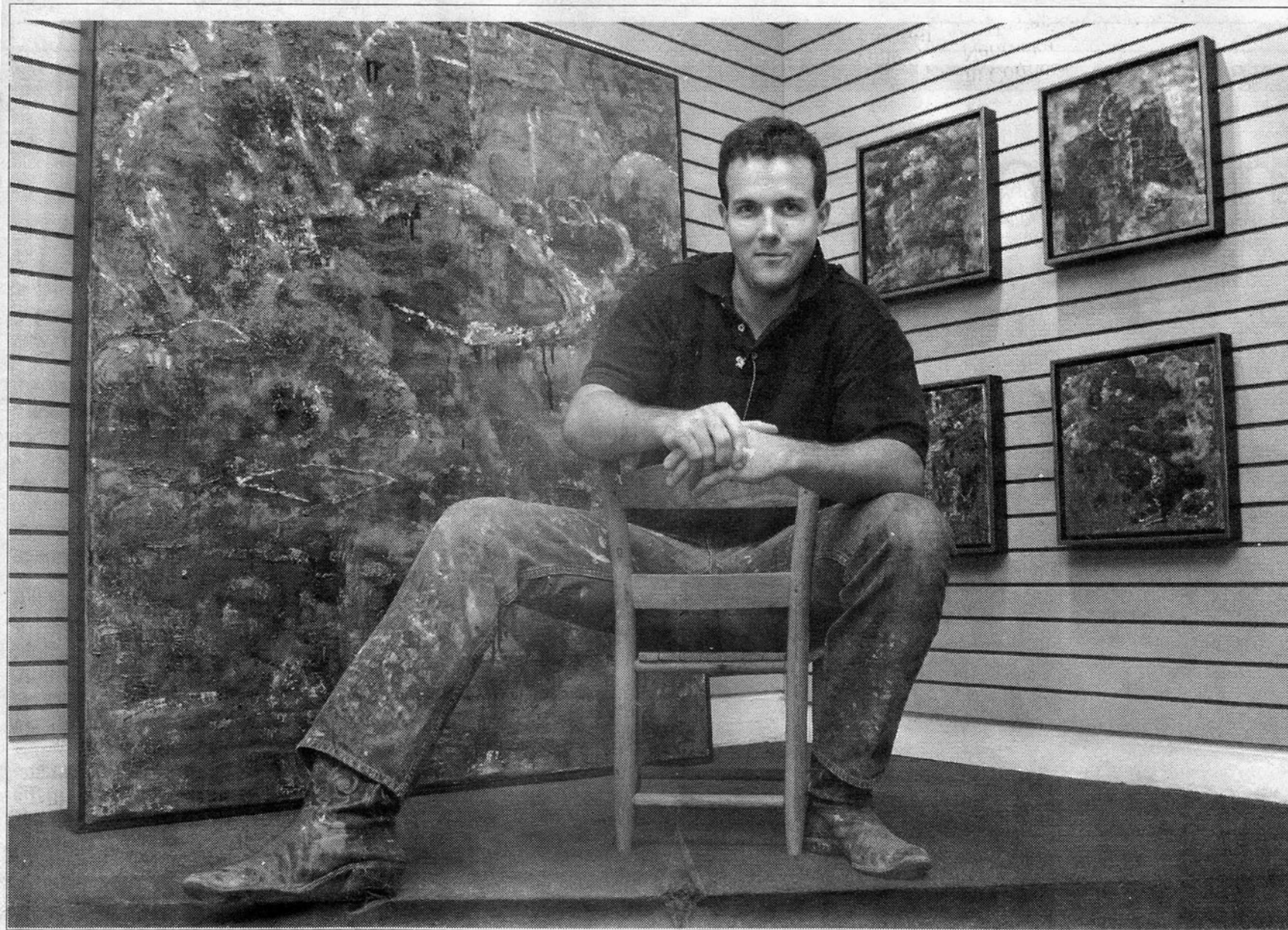


B2 Wednesday, June 7, 2006

# Arts & Entertainment



# Solo show at Kirby Gallery in June features works by Nathaniel Hester

By VICKI BERRY  
C-T Lifestyle Editor

abstract references to submarines, torpedoes, masts, portholes, depth charges and iron-clad hulls."

The titles themselves correspond to specific engagements such as "The Sinking of the Merrimac," "The Blockade Runner of Sabine Pass," and "The Surrender of Vicksburg."

Moreover, Hester brings a variety of mediums to the Kirby exhibit in the form of oil paintings, woodblocks, etchings and drawings. "Each medium has its own descriptive

power," he explains. Working with a variety of mediums can also present a challenge for an artist as well as to help deter boredom.

Hester notes that he was trained figuratively — "trained to draw what I saw," he said; however, "this show is abstract."

"My vision has become abstract," he said, adding that he believes his abstracts are more

involved than one may think and he spends months on his work.

Folks tend to appreciate the wild and free aspect of abstracts, he said adding that he views his works as "caring and loving."

Hester explained that he paints prayerfully which he describes as "part hymn and part praise."

And what he is looking for in a completed piece of work is an "incongruous harmony" that takes on a "life of its own."

He said he draws on American landscapes for inspiration.

"It helps to live in Person County," he said.

"This show focuses on one particular landscape — the Civil War."

Hester's Civil War project is a 100-painting project and the June exhibit at the Kirby reflects approximately one-third of those pieces.

Hester was born in Durham, grew up in Raleigh and often visited Person County and his grandparents who lived in the southern portion of the county.

Hester recently moved to the home place and had a 1,800 square foot studio constructed where he devotes his attention

full time to art.

He received a master's of fine arts degree from Boston University and a bachelor of arts degree from Rice University in Houston, Texas.

He also took advantage of traveling fellowships that included study abroad, specifically France and Italy.

That is when "I committed myself to art," recalls Hester.

Solo shows include his "Master of Fine Arts Thesis Show" at Boston University as well as shows in Raleigh and New York and group showings in Connecticut, Maryland and Nebraska.

Hester's work is included in collections at Harvard University, University of Miami and in private collections in New Mexico, Texas, California, Italy, France and Germany.

For more detailed information, visit [www.nathanielhester.com](http://www.nathanielhester.com).

The "Ship of Fools" exhibit will be at the Kirby Gallery, 213 North Main St. in Roxboro, through the month of June.

The Kirby Gallery hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Approximately 50 pieces of art will be on display at the Kirby throughout the month of June as the gallery features the exhibit entitled "Ship of Fools: Portrait of a Confederate Navy" by Hurdle Mills artist Nathaniel Hester.

The public is invited to attend the opening and "Meet the Artist" reception on Friday, June 9, between 7 and 9 p.m. at the Main Street

gallery, next to the Kirby Theater. During the reception, guitarist Michael Thompson will provide music and hors d'oeuvres will be by Delectables Catering.

According to Hester, "the images on display investigate the landscape of warfare. Each canvas evokes the essential harshness and beauty of 19th century maritime battle with

## AT A GLANCE

**WHO** — Nathaniel Hester

**WHAT** — Meet the Artist

**WHEN** — Friday, June 9;  
7 to 9 p.m.

**WHERE** — Kirby Gallery  
213 N. Main Street, Roxboro