

**For photos, additional information or a free tour**

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## **Media Advisory**

On display in the Chris Harris Permanent Collection Gallery at the Museum of Florida Art:

Norma Pruden: Selected Works  
On Exhibit: May 19 – September 2, 2007

Gallery Admission:

Members – Free, Non Members - \$3.00, Children Under 12 – Free



Norma Pruden, **at the age of 71**, was at a place in her life where she was able to do anything she wanted. What she wanted to do was paint.

A portrait of the late Norma Pruden greets when you first enter the columned flanked arches of the new Chris Harris Gallery at the Museum of Florida Art. Her signature smile masterfully captured by famed photographer Jack Mitchell. **In her hands, her most appreciated tool, a paintbrush taped to a pool stick**, a combination she applied to achieve her gesture qualities and linier expressiveness.

Each painting in the collection is a delight in color and texture. Palms and fronds, caladiums, a lifeguard tower, a sailboat- True Florida captured by a true Floridian.

Trish Thompson, a professor in studio art at Daytona Beach Community College and mentor said, "Every painting in the collection feels like an old friend, a treasure to hold.

Amazingly, Norma Pruden did not begin her artistic journey until the age of 71. John Wilton, one of her first instructors and Senior Professor of Visual Arts at the Daytona Beach Community College said, "When Norma finally decided to study

art, she was tenacious - learning everything she could, as quickly as she could. Her studies ultimately lead her to experiments in digital art, a step most artists have yet to take."

Norma Pruden's paintings are in the framework of the Master German Expressionists. Her color arrangements are outstanding and each piece demonstrates her wonderful sense of joy.

Sculpture Henry Messersmith said," Norma was a courageous artist who was willing to take the personal risk of looking inside herself to find the passion and insight required to express art that is rich in experience and complex in textual history, not unlike Norma's own persona."

Norma passed away with her family by her side in January of 2003 leaving behind a prolific body of work.

Selected Works by Norma Pruden will be on display at the Museum of Florida Art at 600 North Woodland Boulevard in DeLand Florida until September 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information, contact the museum at (386) 734-4371 or visit [www.delandmuseum.com](http://www.delandmuseum.com).

*The Museum of Florida Art offers a venue where: creativity is fostered, appreciation of art is nurtured, all people are welcomed. The mission of the Museum of Florida Art is to integrate exhibitions and education to create an enriching and stimulating experience for a diverse audience. The Museum of Florida Art offers a venue for emerging and established Florida artists to support the cultural legacy of our state.*

*DeLand Museum of Art, 600 North Woodland Blvd. DeLand, FL 32720  
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Featured above: " Lifeguard Chair", acrylic painting by Norma Pruden