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## Nancy Thomas Gallery opens "Art on Tar/Art on Glass" on Saturday

By MARK ST. JOHN ERICKSON | 247-4783  
3:14 PM EDT, September 25, 2008



North Carolina artist Mark Peyton's glass assemblages will be among the works on view at Nancy Thomas Gallery in Yorktown beginning this Saturday. (Courtesy of Nancy Thomas Gallery / September 25, 2008)

Outsider artist Tres Taylor sometimes takes a strange tack when selling his tar paper paintings.

Filling a roll from end to end with images of people, places and houses, the former biochemist simply rolls his unusually long canvas up. Then he hawks the resulting painting by the foot — with his customers often choosing which part and how much of the endless panorama they want to pay for.

The [Alabama](#) artist will be just one of the enterprising talents on hand, however, when Nancy Thomas Gallery in Yorktown opens a two-person show called "Art on Tar/Art on Glass" with a free public reception Saturday evening.

[North Carolina](#) artist Mark Peyton — a former ad agency artist who once made paint brushes from his own hair — transforms found beach glass and glass objects into ingeniously inventive paintings as well as genuinely one-of-a-kind chandeliers.

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[Tres painting](#) Photo

The duo is just the latest in a recent series of outsider art shows that have added an entirely new, sometimes edgy element to the gallery best known for showcasing Thomas' own nationally prominent self-taught paintings.

"There's no real venue for this kind of art around here," art director Chris Ambrosino says. "But we feel so strongly about it that Nancy is tearing up one of the rooms in the back to make a space for guest artists."

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Taylor has attracted national attention since a fortuitous 1998 meeting with famed Georgia folk artist R. A. Miller caused him to give up a 20-year career in biochemistry and embrace what he describes as "a paint brush that fell from the sky." He works most often with common house paint and roofing paper, creating images of people and places inspired by years of living and working in other countries.

Peyton — who once spent time in the Peruvian Andes harvesting potatoes with the native Indians — began working with glass a few years ago in Florida. Gathering sand-etched, jewellike fragments of beach glass, he began creating innovative kinds of sculpture. His current work includes distinctive chandeliers, decorative glass knobs and paintinglike portraits that are both dramatic and whimsical.

"People seem to like what they've seen in the exhibits so far — and our customer base is growing," Ambrosino. "So each show is getting bigger and bigger."

**News to use**

**What:** "Art on Tar/Art on Glass"

**Where:** Nancy Thomas Gallery, 145 Ballard St., Yorktown

**When:** Opens with a free public reception at 5 p.m. Saturday, then through Oct. 11

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** 757-898-0738/ [www.nancythomas.com](http://www.nancythomas.com)

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