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Lon Michels

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As April approaches, Caestecker Art Gallery will be cleared to make way for artist, and '84 Ripon College alum, Lon Michels art opening.

Michels is to bring his exciting and inspirational paintings to Ripon Friday April 6. at 7 PM. When Michels was a student at Ripon he studied under Professor of Art History Evelyn Kain, who noticed his talent for painting and his zest for life. "The thing that is so amazing about Lon is that he is so spiritual and passionate," says Kain. "He's such a beautiful human being, and he wants everyone to feel beautiful". Kain is very excited about Michels' art opening and paintings which she describes enthusiastically. "His painting really relies on immediate visual pleasure" says Kain. "His paintings demand to be looked at. Michels' personality shines through in his paintings, revealing his passion and intensity for life. "It is hard not to be cheerful in front of his art," says Kain. "His paintings have a life-asserting intensity about them". Another of Michels' former instructors, Professor of Anthropology Paul Axelrod, shares Kain's excitement for Michels' upcoming opening. "I think his use of shapes to make images is key to his work," says Axelrod. Like Kain, Axelrod is aware of Michels' contagious personality and wholehearted outlook on life.

"I think he enjoys being flamboyant" says Axelrod. "I think he likes to shock by saying things you wouldn't expect. "Axelrod also acknowledges that Michels' personality filters through into his artwork. "His art is rich and complex and in that way it reflects his personality," he says. It is evident that both Kain and Axelrod are excited for Michels' art opening, but it is Michels himself who expresses the most anticipation. (Viewers) can expect their jaws to drop." says Michels. "There are a lot of surprises I have in store and it should be very exciting". The stylistic elements of Michels' paintings are unique and allow the viewer to experience depth, shapes and vibrant colors. "I use pattern and color to create different planes that create a sense of symphony on my canvases, explains Michels. "They are as individual as I am." Displaying his artwork gives Michels a great sense of contribution because he simply wants to share his happiness with others through his paintings. "As an artist, I feel I was given a gift, and I want to share that gift," states Michels. "When you look at a Lon Michels paintings, you see Lon Michels."