

Selected from a statewide competition as the official 2005 Piccolo Spoleto Poster image, *La Fete de la Nuit* by Charleston, SC, artist Bea Aaronson will grace this year's official Piccolo Spoleto poster. The competition is open to all South Carolina artists and the winning Piccolo poster image is selected for its design qualities and its representation of the festival.



Bea Aaronson

"Bea's wonderful image *La Fete de la Nuit* is perfect for this year's festival. It evokes the lightheartedness, the elegance and whimsy of Piccolo's 700+ performances, exhibits and literary events, all at the same time. The beautiful colors selected by Bea make your heart dance. Her original painting will become part of the city's collection of Piccolo Spoleto poster images, which have been created by some of South Carolina's finest visual artists. Each artist has interpreted the spirit of Piccolo Spoleto Festival and its programs in his or her own unique and special way," said Ellen Dressler Moryl, Director of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs. Aaronson is a self-taught multimedia artist, art critic, performer, award-winning poet and published author, independent scholar and lecturer. She was born in Paris in 1956. After studying Art History at La Sorbonne and L'Ecole du Louvre, she went to Cape Town, South Africa, where she earned a BA Honors in French Literature and Art

History. She moved to Charleston in 1987 and since then earned an MA in French Literature from the University of South Carolina, Columbia. She has exhibited her work in the United States, Europe, South Africa, Lebanon, and Israel, curated shows in Colorado Springs, Columbia, and Charleston for Piccolo Spoleto.

Three times the official poster artist for Piccolo Spoleto, with *Erzulie* in 1989, *The Eye Listens* in 2001, and *La Fete de la Nuit* in 2005, Aaronson has exhibited her work at the International Fair of Contemporary Art in Strasbourg, France, and in Paris as part of the return of the "New New Paintings" from America. She has participated in the Beyrouth Art Fair in Lebanon, and inaugurated the Miami Art Fair with a multimedia presentation of her poems and synaesthetic laminated collages. She also exhibited at the Paris Foire Internationale d'Art Contemporain at La Bastille. In April 2003 her work was chosen to be part of the International Juried exhibition at the coveted Salon d'Art Contemporain de Montrouge. Her work, including sculptures, photographs, watercolors, oils, acrylics, collages and monotypes, can be seen in her studio at 356 King Street.