

## O BROTHER, FINE ART THOU

Arriving at Hendrix as a sophomore, **Greg Thompson '90** took a psychology class and an art class.

"I had a 'come to Jesus' moment and asked myself, 'What do you want to do with the rest of your life?'" he said. "What really made me happy was art."

Switching his major from psychology to art, Thompson had the following exchange with his father.

"My dad said, 'Do you think you can make any money at that?' And I said, 'I think I can,'" he recalled. "And that's where it started."

His father needn't have worried.

Thompson now owns Greg Thompson Fine Art in the historic Argenta business district in North Little Rock. The gallery features the best Southern artists from below the Mason-Dixon Line and sells original artwork – including works by contemporary and modern American and European masters like Botero, Cassatt, Picasso, and Wyeth – to clients all over country.

Exhibitions, including the early Best of the South exhibition Thompson began in partnership with *The Oxford American* magazine, are regularly featured in *Garden and Gun* and *Art in America* magazines and the *New York Times*, and draw clients from across the country.

Thompson was always interested in art.

"My mom was a museum director," he said. "And I took classes at the Arkansas Arts Center from a very young age. It was like my home church."

His mother was familiar with Hendrix and former Hendrix education and history professor Bob Meriwether was a second cousin.

"Growing up, I knew Hendrix had a reputation as a fine liberal arts school where the student-to-faculty ratio was low," Thompson said.

"I learned a ton of things at Hendrix, one of which was a taste and then a hunger for education, self-improvement and travel," he said.

"My art history professor Don Marr used



Photo by Joshua Longberry