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Promoting the creative power in people with disabilities through the arts.

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **VSA arts of Maine Brings Art by People with Disabilities to Camden Public Library**

BRUNSWICK, ME – VSA arts of Maine announces the opening of their Matter of Perception 2008 exhibit at the Camden Public Library. These exhibits have been showcasing the work of adult artists with disabilities since 1996.

The opening reception for the Camden show will be held Saturday, June 7, from 2 – 4 pm. The exhibit runs from June 3 – 29, 2008 and includes works by the following local artists: Jennifer Blake, Hulls Cove; Jerry Houck, Searsport; Robert Nutting, Deer Isle; and Mark Shedd, Deer Isle.

Matter of Perception exhibits are being held in fifteen locations around the state this year. They include work done in community facilities and, increasingly, by independent artists with disabilities. Work on display comes from every corner of the state and from many mediums: stained glass, fiber art, wall art made from wood and from wire, photographs, watercolors, acrylic paintings, and more. The artists come from a wide range of artistic training and backgrounds, and represent the spectrum of what it means to have a disability.

Every piece of art submitted will be shown at least once during 2008. At each installation a different group of jurors will select a small number of works to go on to the 2009 exhibition. This juried show will travel across Maine throughout 2009.

The Camden Public Library is at 49 Main Street. For directions, call 207- 236-3440.

For more information, contact Gracia Woodward at VSA Arts of Maine, 607-4016 or [GraciaWoodward@vsartsmaine.org](mailto:GraciaWoodward@vsartsmaine.org)

To see images from Matter of Perception 2007, and for more info about VSA arts of Maine, go to [www.vsartsmaine.org](http://www.vsartsmaine.org)

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The following photographs are attached:

Jennifer Blake, Hulls Cove <i>Acadia Path</i> , 2006 Oil on Canvas 18 x 24"	Robert Nutting, Deer Isle <i>Breaking up Space</i> , 2006 Acrylic on Paper 20 x 26"
Peter Brown and Debbie Meservier, Lewiston <i>Sunday Best</i> , 2007 Mixed Media (diptych) 18 x 3" each of two dolls	Laurie Proctor, Fairfield <i>RIP- Rest in Peace</i> , 2007 Mixed Media on Paper 22_ x 15"
Jerry Houck, Searsport <i>Prospect Lighthouse</i> , 2002 Oil on Canvas 12 x 16"	Mark Shedd, Deer Isle <i>Oak</i> , 2007 Ink and Charcoal on Paper 16 x 20"

## ABOUT VSA arts of Maine

**VSA arts of Maine** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing innovative and inclusive arts, educational and cultural opportunities for children and adults with disabilities in Maine. Programs include artist residencies in schools, workshops for teachers and artists, mentoring for adult artists with disabilities, exhibitions by artists with disabilities, and partnerships with cultural venues throughout the state to improve accessibility.

**VSA arts of Maine** is part of the VSA arts international network, dedicated to promoting education and lifelong learning opportunities in the arts for people with disabilities. Founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith, VSA arts is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Formerly named Very Special Arts, VSA arts changed its name in 1999, eliminating the use of the word "special" to honor the progress made by members of the disability community since the organization's inception.