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

PRESS RELEASE

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VSA arts of Maine Brings Art by People with Disabilities to Cape Elizabeth

BRUNSWICK, ME – VSA arts of Maine announces the opening of its Matter of Perception 2008 exhibit at the Thomas Memorial Library in Cape Elizabeth. These exhibits have been showcasing the work of adult artists with disabilities since 1996.

The opening reception for the Cape Elizabeth show will be held Friday July 18, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. The exhibit runs from July 2 - 30, 2008 and includes works by local artists Stephen St. John of Cape Elizabeth and James Gendron of South Portland, as well as other artists from communities ranging from Alfred to Rumford to Mount Desert. The show includes photography, drawings, collage, and paintings.

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. 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 to MOP will be shown at least once during 2008. At each installation jurors will select a several works to go on to the 2009 exhibition. This juried show will travel across Maine throughout 2009.

The Thomas Memorial Library is at 6 Scott Dyer Road in Cape Elizabeth. For directions, call 207-799-1720 or check www.thomasmemoriallibrary.org

For more information, contact Gracia Woodward at VSA Arts of Maine, 607-4016 or 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

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Photographs of the following pieces of artwork are attached:

Fran Houston, *Starfish*, 2007, color photograph

Stephen St. John, *Untitled*, 2008, acrylic on canvas

Frances Jennings, *Red Vase with Flowers*, 2007, acrylic on paper

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.