

185 Park Row
Brunswick, Maine 04011
207-607-4016 voice/tty
207-407-4018 fax
www.vsartsmaine.org



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

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2008

CONTACT: Gracia Woodward, Development and Marketing Coordinator
207-607-4016
GraciaWoodward@vsartsmaine.org

Matter of Perception Opens in Augusta and Freeport

BRUNSWICK, ME – VSA arts of Maine announces the opening of two **Matter of Perception** exhibits in Augusta and in Freeport.

In Augusta, the opening reception will be held Monday, March 31st, 2008, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM, at the VSA Gallery, which is housed at the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council offices, 225 Western Avenue, Augusta (by the Subway Restaurant). This reception has been scheduled to follow the Disability Awareness Day activities at the State House earlier that day. This exhibit will run from March 21 – May 9, 2008.

In Freeport, the opening reception will be held Friday, April 11, 2008, 4:00 – 7:00 PM, at the Freeport Community Center, 53 Depot Street, Freeport. For directions, call 869-1000. The exhibit runs from April 2 to April 30, 2008.

VSA arts of Maine has been showcasing the work of adult artists with disabilities in *A Matter of Perception* exhibitions since 1996. The exhibits 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.

During 2008 every piece of art submitted will be shown at least once at one of eleven exhibitions across the state. At each installation a different group of jurors will select a

small number of works to go on to the 2009 exhibition. This curated show will travel across Maine throughout 2009.

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

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 Sean 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.