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

PRESS RELEASE

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Spindleworks Retrospective at VSA arts of Maine

BRUNSWICK, ME - In celebration of Spindleworks' 30th Anniversary, VSA arts of Maine's Gallery at Park Row is hosting an exhibition of work by Spindleworks artist that spans 25 years of collaboration between the two organizations. *Hanging Together: 25 Years of VSA arts of Maine and Spindleworks* highlights the artists that have been central to many of VSA's exhibits, including rarely seen pieces from the VSA arts of Maine permanent collection. Recent work will be available for sale. The exhibit also features poetry, jewelry, fiber art and vintage photographs of the artists.

The show features area artists, Anglea Alderete, Kevin Babine, Nancy Bassett, Emma Becker, Mona Bibber, Diane Black, Earle Black, Terry Bonnin, Caroline Boylston, Betty Carter, Paula Clearfield, Sam Eberhart, Donald Freeman, Dale Hafford, Hazel Hanscome, Wendy Lynne Jordan, John Joyce, Theresa Labreque, Rita Langlois, Larry Lund, Steve Mann, Grace Merry, Susan MacPherson, Anna McDougal, Joe Ray Morin, Pat Pettengil, Mitch Pfeifle, Danielle Philippon, Betty Pinette, Nancy Scott, Terri Snape, Al Tyrol, Helen Warren, Minton Warren, Kelly Weingart, and Lloyd Whitcomb.

"Hanging Together" runs through August 1st. The Gallery at Park Row is open "by accident and by appointment" – usually during regular business hours. The Gallery is located at 185 Park Row, in the same building as Hattie's Ice Cream. For directions, and more information about VSA arts of Maine, go to www.vsartsmaine.org.

The Gallery will be open for Brunswick's Second Friday ArtWalk, Friday, July 11, 2008, 5:00 - 7:00 PM. That evening will include a showing of *Everything in Sight—A Short Film on Film*, the recently debuted documentary about Spindleworks by local filmmaker Nikolai Fox, which shows scenes from VSA arts of Maine's old Festivals at the Pineland Center. Light refreshments will be served.

VSA arts of Maine moved from Portland to Brunswick in December 2007. The Gallery at Park Row is a new program of VSA arts of Maine, displaying and selling quality art created by Mainers with disabilities. Beginning this summer, the Gallery will serve as a training site for artists with disabilities to learn the business side of the arts. Apprentices will design displays, hang artwork, handle finances and customer service, host openings, and assist in all aspects of the Gallery's work. During their time at the Gallery, apprentices will also determine if any assistive technology would help them in their work. Once the apprenticeships begin, the Gallery will be open regular hours, including Saturdays.

For more information, contact Kippy Rudy at VSA Arts of Maine, 607-4016 or KippyRudy@vsartsmaine.org

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Photographs of the following pieces of artwork are attached:

Rita Langlois, *Untitled (Green House)*, 1989, watercolor and marker on paper
Betty Pinette, *Birch Trees*, 1983, pastels on paper
Sam Eberhart, *Batman*, acrylic on particle board

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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.