

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: February 1, 2008

CONTACT: Kippy Rudy, Executive Director
207-607-4016
kippyrudy@vsartsmaine.org

Artwork by Artists with Disabilities Sought for Statewide Exhibits

BRUNSWICK, ME -- *VSA arts of Maine* is accepting submissions for **A Matter of Perception 2008**, a biennial exhibition that showcases and celebrates the work and creativity of Maine artists with disabilities. Original art will be accepted until February 15, 2008. Each piece will be exhibited at least once at one of fourteen locations statewide during 2008. Up to 400 pieces of work from all over the state are expected.

A Matter of Perception 2008 demonstrates that physical or cognitive disabilities, mental illness or other disabilities do not limit talent or creativity. Alan Crichton, Artistic Director of Waterfall Arts, says about **A Matter of Perception**, "What ties these artists together finally is not a set of disabilities at all, but the power, spirit and beauty of their work." Past exhibitions have included photography, stained glass, painting, collage, and many other media. Work in the exhibition may be offered for sale. In conjunction with the exhibits, *VSA arts of Maine* will host a variety of events including opening receptions, artist panel discussions and gallery talks.

Any Maine adult artist with a disability can submit up to two pieces of work to become part of **A Matter of Perception 2008**. All submissions will be on display at least once during the year. Work is due at the *VSA arts of Maine* offices in Brunswick by February 15, 2008. It can be brought in or mailed, and there may be pick up points set up around the state. Complete entry forms and information about the exhibition can be obtained at the VSA arts offices or by downloading from www.vsartsmaine.org. Alternative formats of the Call for Art and entry forms are available upon request. For further information please contact *VSA arts of Maine* by calling 207-607-4016 (voice/tty).

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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.