



Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

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Brattleboro Museum & Art Center Kicks Off Holiday Season With Five New Exhibits, Family Events

Brattleboro, Vermont—Five new exhibits featuring hundreds of works by more than 60 artists are now open at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. Visitors are welcome to drop by during regular museum hours or for one of several special family-oriented events coming up this holiday season.

Headlining the new set of exhibits, which will remain on display through February 21, 2010, is *Drawing Itself: A Survey of Contemporary Practice*. This group show offers a glimpse of the amazing scope and variety of contemporary drawing. The list of featured artists includes such major figures as Romare Bearden, Charles Burchfield, Paul Cadmus, Rackstraw Downes, Rico LeBrun, and Whitfield Lovell, as well as scores of lesser-known yet highly regarded artists based in New York, Boston, and southern Vermont. Among those artists with ties to our region are Jason Alden, Madeline Fan, Barbara Garber, Gordon Meinhard, Ethan Murrow, and others.

Complementing *Drawing Itself* are solo shows featuring the work of Eric Aho, Marcy Hermansader, Bill Long, and Joseph Fichter.

Eric Aho's *Ice Box* is a sampling of the Saxton's River, Vermont-based artist's recent paintings of and inspired by ice. In confronting these dramatic new works, the viewer can almost hear the crunch of snow underfoot, the chattering of ice on branches, or the heaving groans of a frozen river. Accompanying Aho's paintings is a short film by Rachel Portesi depicting the once common practice of ice harvesting.

Back Through Black is an exhibit of collages by Putney, Vermont resident Marcy Hermansader. According to Hermansader, these works were created in response to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. "For me," she explains, "the subject of war provides a seriousness, a dark urgency that keeps me focused."

The museum's Activity Gallery showcases 32 original oil paintings by Bill Long, an artist and animator based in Chester, Vermont. These whimsical paintings of quirky characters occupying a colorful fantasy world have been created for Long's wordless picture book, *Through the View*.

Outside the museum stands *Clarion Call*, a rearing horse sculpture by Putney, Vermont artist Joseph Fichter. It is the third and final Fichter horse to stand sentry outside BMAC during the 2009-2010 season.

To accommodate visitors during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, BMAC will stay open late (until 8 p.m.) on Friday, November 27, and will host an ornament-making activity for families on Saturday, November 28 (1-4 p.m.). All ages are welcome to drop by to make a creative cut-paper ornament suitable for Christmas trees, window hangings, or as gifts for family and friends. Also underway beginning November 27 is a special holiday sale in the museum's gift shop, with discounts of 20% or more on art-related children's toys, books, and crafts; Wolf Kahn calendars, note cards, and coffee table books; and a wide variety of art-inspired jewelry, handbags, accessories, and more.

Major support for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's 2009-2010 season is provided by BMAC members and Entergy Vermont Yankee, Foard Panel, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Sam's Outdoor Outfitters, and Chittenden Bank. The Museum's exhibits and gift shop are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday and Wednesday. Regular admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students. Members and children 5 and under are admitted free of charge.

Founded in 1972, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center presents art and ideas in ways that inspire, educate, and engage people of all ages. Each season features compelling new exhibits of contemporary artwork by regional and internationally acclaimed artists, complemented by lectures, artist talks, film screenings, and other public programs. Located in historic Union Station in downtown Brattleboro, at the intersection of Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142, the Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information call 802-257-0124 or visit www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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