

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brattleboro, VT

Art as Therapy for Children with Special Needs

Lecture, Discussion, and Artwork Display

Sara Vitale, Angel Boy Art

February 28, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Brattleboro, Vermont - How does making art enhance the physical, cognitive, and communicative abilities – and the self-esteem – of children with special needs? Sara Vitale, founder and president of Angel Boy Art, a Vermont nonprofit organization dedicated to exploring how art can benefit special-needs children and their families, will lead a discussion on this issue. The Vitale family was featured in a December 2007 episode of Extreme Makeover Home Edition. Accompanying Vitale's presentation will be a display of Angel Boy Art's "Original Collection," 15 paintings created by special-needs children, some of whom will be on hand for the event. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center will open at 6:30 p.m. for those wishing to view Angel Boy Art's "Original Collection." Admission \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 students, BMAC members and children under six are FREE.

Angel Boy Art, Inc., is a nonprofit private foundation dedicated to exploring the myriad of ways art can benefit special needs children and their families. Angel Boy Art has three main goals: to help children with special differences flourish, communicate and express themselves through art; to raise money for special needs children and their families by selling their art; to raise public awareness about special needs children and break down stigma. Angel Boy Art hosts an online gallery for kids with special needs to show off and/or sell their masterpieces. All net proceeds raised by sale of an artist's work go directly to the family of the artist. For more information visit www.angelboyart.com.

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 12-15 compelling new exhibits of contemporary artwork by regional and internationally acclaimed artists, as well as 30-35 public programs, such as lectures, artist talks, film screenings, and more.

Museum galleries are open year-round, every day except Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; please check our web site for holiday and other special closings. Regular admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$2 for students. Members and children under 6 are admitted free of charge. The Museum Gift Shop is open to the public during regular Museum hours.

The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center is located in downtown Brattleboro, in Union Station at the intersection of Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142. The Museum is wheelchair accessible. Parking is available in front of the building. Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's 2008 season is sponsored by Entergy Vermont Yankee. **For more information, call 802-257-0124 or visit www.brattleboromuseum.org.**