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A Room within a Room: Alisa Dworsky's Installation at Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

Brattleboro, Vt. — The small Mary Sommer Gallery behind the gift shop at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center always holds unusual installation art. The last part of the 2007 season is no exception. Architectural designer and artist Alisa Dworsky's "InTension," created specifically for this gallery, is on view through the season closing on March 22.

A bright yellow crocheted cocoon-like form made of nylon rope hangs between ceiling and floor. It is supported entirely by the tension created by a series of pulleys weighted with bags of sand covered in the same crocheted yellow rope. Dworsky describes this form as "in effect, a small room with an entrance." She wants visitors to enter the soft, oval space she has constructed within the hard, smooth-walled gallery and experience the contrasting enclosures.

At the gallery's end, a series of pencil drawings on paper float to the floor from anchor points near the top of the wall. These are rubbings Dworsky made of the same rope she used for the crocheted elements. "I draped and repositioned a single strand of this rope numerous times beneath the paper to create a series of marks suggesting movement," she says. "I am interested in the ambiguity and tension established by using the same material—the rope—in both the two-dimensional and three-dimensional realms."

Dworsky received a grant from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts for this work. Her other recent artwork includes intaglio prints, graphite drawings and large-scale public installations, as well as sculptures of hand-crocheted rope.

She has taught at Stanford University, the Yale Graduate School of Architecture, Norwich University, Ball State University, and the Yestermorrow Design/Build School in Warren, Vt. She also cofounded Terra Firma Inc., an award-winning architectural design/build company focusing on ecological design and energy efficiency.

Museum galleries are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Tuesday; please check for holiday and exhibit change closings before visiting. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students. Museum members and children six years old and younger are admitted free of charge. The Brattleboro

Museum & Art Center is located in Union Station at the intersection of Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142 in downtown Brattleboro. The Museum is wheelchair accessible, and parking is available in front of the building. For more information, call 802-257-0124 or visit www.brattleboromuseum.org.

The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1972, with a mission is to present art and ideas in ways that inspire, educate, and engage people of all ages. Compelling new exhibits by regional and internationally acclaimed artists are shown each season. The Museum Gift Shop, free to the public during regular Museum hours, features an assortment of cards, games, books, prints, educational and gift items including work of many local artists. The Museum is financially supported by grants, donations, and sponsorships, and by membership and program fees. The 2008 season is sponsored by Entergy Vermont Yankee.

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