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Christopher Irion: “As Others See Us” Will Open November 23

Brattleboro, VT—If you were in downtown Brattleboro this past weekend you might have noticed the crowd gathered around a large, mysterious, light blue box – in the Whetstone Pathway on Friday and the Harmony Lot on Saturday. The box was actually a photo booth, the workplace of award-winning photographer Christopher Irion, who was shooting photos for an exhibit of community portraits to be mounted at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center in November. Similar to Irion’s billboard-like display outside the Putney Food Coop in 2005, the BMAC exhibit will consist of three large panels covering the front of the Museum. Mounted on the panels will be a total of 214 large, black-and-white photographic portraits of members of our community – the results of Irion’s work this past weekend.

California-based Irion, whose work once appeared on the cover of LIFE Magazine, has traveled extensively with his custom-made photo booth, producing exhibits like the one to be shown at BMAC throughout the country, from San Francisco to Silver City, New Mexico. He has recently landed a five-year contract from the University of California at Berkeley to produce portraits of the school’s alumni around the world. To learn more about Irion visit online at www.irionphotography.com.

Irion’s goal with what he calls the PhotoBooth Project is “... to strengthen the ties of a community, by showing the group back to itself in a direct and democratic fashion.” According to BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld, Irion’s exhibit is a natural fit for an institution that views itself as “a community center for art and ideas.” “What I like most about the exhibit,” Lichtenfeld said, “is that it not only represents our community in visual terms; it also requires community members to come together in shared physical space to view and reflect on who we are, and who our neighbors are.” Lichtenfeld

added, "An exhibit like this cannot help but to prompt community-wide self-reflection, and that is always a good thing."

Christopher Irion's exhibit at BMAC, which is funded by the Vermont Arts Council and Chittenden Bank, will be part of a show entitled "As Others See Us," which will encompass the entire Museum and focus exclusively on contemporary portraits. The show opens November 23 and will run concurrently with portrait-oriented shows at the In-Sight Photography Project, the Vermont Center for Photography, and elsewhere.

Major support for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's 2008–2009 season is provided by Entergy Vermont Yankee, Foard Panel, the Brattleboro Reformer, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Sam's Outdoor Outfitters, and Chittenden Bank. The Museum's exhibits and gift shop are open year-round, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Tuesday; please check the website 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. 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.