

185 Park Row
Brunswick, Maine 04011
207-607-4016 voice/tty
207-607-4018 fax
www.vsartsmaine.org



Promoting the creative power in people with disabilities through the arts.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 1, 2008

CONTACT: Gracia Woodward, Development and Marketing Coordinator
graciawoodward@vsartsmaine.org
207-607-4016

Artist-Decorated Trees to be Auctioned Off

BRUNSWICK, ME – VSA arts of Maine is holding a silent auction of decorated Christmas trees during the Arts Downtown and All Around weekend, December 12 – 14, 2008, in Brunswick.

Local businesses, including Maine Street Art, Provisions, Indrani's, El Camino and What's Up are trimming trees for the auction. Cabot Mills Antiques is asking each of its dealers to provide an ornament for the tree they are donating. Red Dragon Toys is collaborating with the Theatre Project to support members of the Young Theatre troupe in creating a tree for the event. Artists and other friends of VSA arts are also designing trees for the auction.

Frank Brockman has donated the use of the first floor space below his gallery at 68 Maine Street, near Morning Glory Natural Foods. "We are delighted with the enthusiasm shown by the local business community," said Kippy Rudy,

Executive Director of VSA arts of Maine. "The trees will reflect the quirky imaginations and varied resources of our donors. It's always fascinating to see what they create.

VSA arts of Maine relocated to Brunswick in December of 2007. They held Christmas tree auctions for many years at the Portland Stage Company. This is their first auction in Brunswick.

Stop in, enjoy some hot cider and cookies, place a bid or take advantage of the "buy it now" prices to purchase a one-of-a-kind, locally-made decoration or gift. Crafts made by youth from the ArtVan will also be available for sale. This event will take place Friday the 12th, 5-8 pm; Saturday the 13th, 10 am – 4 pm; and Sunday the 14th, noon to 5 pm.

###

Included with this email are three jpeg images of trees from past years.

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, exhibitions by adult artists with disabilities statewide, workshops for teachers and artists, mentoring for adult artists with disabilities, and partnerships with cultural venues throughout the state to improve accessibility of their programs.

VSA arts of Maine is part of the VSA arts international network, dedicated to promoting education and lifelong 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 names Very Special Arts, VSA arts changed its name in 1999, eliminating the word "special" to honor the progress made by members of the disability community since the organization's inception.