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

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 23, 2009

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Artists with Disabilities Discuss Their Journeys at Saco Museum Panel

BRUNSWICK, ME – On Saturday, February 7, from 2 – 4 pm, The Saco Museum will hold a reception and artists’ panel discussion in conjunction with its current show, *A Matter of Perception: Juried Exhibition by Artists with Disabilities*, which will be on view through February 22.

Panelists are Tammy Charles, Saco painter; Shell Moore, Winthrop clay artist; and Frankie Dailey, Portland painter. All of these artists have pieces in the show.

Shell Moore wrote the following about her sculpture *After the Sweat*

“A dear friend who fought against breast cancer... and won inspired this sculpture. Her courage and perseverance have affected me deeply. She underwent a double mastectomy and chemotherapy...she came with us to a friend’s summer place... she came out of the sweat lodge and sat on the bank of the pond closed her eyes and raised her chin to let the sun fall on her naked chest. She was so serene and so beautiful in that moment... My friend is beautiful first and a breast cancer survivor second. My hope is that this piece reflects that truth.”

VSA arts of Maine began showcasing the work of adult artists with disabilities in “A Matter of Perception” exhibitions in 1996. Work on display comes from every corner of the state and from many mediums: stained glass, fiber art, photographs, watercolors, acrylic paintings, and more. The artists come from a wide range of artistic training and backgrounds, and represent the spectrum of what it means to have a disability.

The Saco Museum is located at 371 Main Street (Route 1) in Saco. For more information, call 283-3861, ext. 114 or visit www.dyerlibrarysacomuseum.org.

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The following photographs of work from the show are attached:

Color Photographs:

Suitable for black and white reproduction:

Shell Moore*, Winthrop
After the Sweat, 2008
Unglazed Stoneware
11 x 12 x 9"

Anne Brooks, Mt. Vernon
Water Lily Clouds, 2007
Black and White Photograph
8 x 12"

Lukas Konrad Weber, Portland
Planets I and II (Diptych), 2006
Oil on Canvas
22 x 30" each of two

Frank Valliere, Gorham
Classic Ruin, 1991
Lithograph
18 x 13"

An image of Tammy Charles' *Heads or Tails* can be found at http://www.slide.com/s/tYZBVUqX6z_UKvsWmg_F6OTO8GEoimXp. If you want a higher quality image, one will be available from graciawoodward@vsartsmaine.org on Tuesday, January 27, 2009. Image credit:

Tammy Charles*, Saco
Heads or Tails, 2006
Acrylic
30 x 40"

*Panelists

For more info about VSA arts of Maine and to see images from Matter of Perception 2008, go to www.vsartsmaine.org

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

VSA arts of Maine is part of the VSA arts international network, dedicated to promoting education and lifelong learning 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

Dyer Library/Saco Museum Information

The Dyer Library/Saco Museum is located at 371 Main Street (Route 1) in historic downtown Saco, Maine. Free parking. Museum is handicapped accessible. Regular museum hours: Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat: 12 – 4 pm; Thursday 12 – 8 pm (Free from 4-8 pm). Closed Mondays and Sundays June 1

December. December admission: Adults \$4; Seniors & Students \$2; Children (7 – 18) \$2; Children 6

and under – No charge. DL/SM Card holders and their guests – No charge. Group tour rate available for groups of 8 or more. Group tours must be scheduled in advance. For additional information, please call 283-3861, ext. 114 or visit www.dyerlibrarysacomuseum.org.