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to all Mainers

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **“Classic Ruin” Exhibit by Frank Valliere at VSA’ Eleven Pleasant Street Gallery**

VSA arts of Maine announces the opening of "Classic Ruin: A Retrospective of Frank Valliere," on view May 1-31 at the Eleven Pleasant Street Gallery in Brunswick. A reception for the show will be held on Friday, May 14 from 5-8pm, in conjunction with the Brunswick ArtWalk.

"Classic Ruin" features a stunning collection of landscapes by veteran painter Frank Valliere. Mr. Valliere's paintings reflect rural scenes where the footprint of man – an old truck, an abandoned barn – has absorbed the ethos of the surroundings. Mr. Valliere describes it best: "I am taken in by different atmospheres, the random patterns and colors....objects of human existence left to the environment seem to be telling their stories, taking on more and more the character of their surroundings, the harsh, beautiful truth." Mr. Valliere's keen eye and execution reflect his twenty-five years working in oil pastels and lithography. His artwork has been exhibited throughout the U.S. and abroad, and in 1997 was part of the inaugural Portland Museum of Art Biennial exhibition.

The VSA Gallery at Eleven Pleasant St is open Monday – Friday, 10am-5pm. For more information, contact 207-607-4016; sladek@vsartsmaine.org

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## **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. Formerly named Very Special Arts, VSA arts changed its name in 1999, eliminating the use of the word "special" in a move designed to put the focus on the artists' work, rather than on their limitations.