



Promoting the creative power
in people with disabilities
through the arts



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 7, 2009

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Sowing the Seeds of Art for Special Educators

BRUNSWICK, ME – **VSA arts of Maine** and the **Center for Maine Contemporary Art** present *Sowing the Seeds of Art: A Workshop for Special Educators*, on Friday, May 22, 2009, 10am – 3pm, at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art, 162 Russell Ave, Rockport, ME. There is no charge for this workshop.

Maine special educators are invited to attend this daylong workshop focusing on the arts in special needs classrooms. The workshop is designed to support and guide educators in integrating creativity into their classroom practices. Directions are available at www.cmcanow.org.

In this workshop participants will view **CMCA's** "Fear No Art" slide presentation of Maine contemporary art (available free to classrooms) and learn how to bring "Fear No Art" to their own students.

ArtVan, a mobile art therapy program providing arts as a healing agent for safe, creative expression and self-discovery, will present a hands-on workshop on creating altered books. Altered books are a mixed-media artwork in which books are changed by use of a variety of art materials.

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ArtVan Program
101 Centre St, Bath, ME 045
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VSA arts of Maine, statewide arts, education and disability organization, will present adaptations for students with disabilities working in the visual arts, and best practices for implementing Universal Design concepts in the classroom.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Four contact hours for CEU's will be offered. Directions are available at www.cmcanow.org. Space is limited. To register, please contact Rachel Spatz at rspatz@vsartsmaine.org or (207) 930-0190 as soon as possible.

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. For more information, see www.vsartsmaine.org. **VSA arts of Maine** is currently in the process of merging with **ArtVan**.

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. **VSA arts** used the name Very Special Arts until 1999.

ArtVan

The ArtVan program centers around an actual, brightly colored, van which brings staff and equipment to public housing developments, day care and Head Start centers, schools and group homes in Bath, Brunswick, Biddeford and Lewiston/Auburn. The ArtVan staff includes artists and art therapists, aided by many volunteers. Current programs include On-Site Programs for Low and Moderate Income Children; AVAX, an after school arts program at the Bath Middle School; creative technical support for staff at Head Start sites; and the newly formed ArtVan Creative Council, a group of Morse High School students who are committed to making art, developing

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governance skills and providing financial support for the ArtVan Program. For more information see www.artvanprogram.org.

The Center for Maine Contemporary Art

The Center for Maine Contemporary Art is a nonprofit organization advancing contemporary art in Maine through exhibitions and educational programs, located in Rockland, Maine. For more information, see www.cmcanow.org.

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