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

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 27, 2008

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VSA arts of Maine Displays Art by People with Disabilities in Augusta

BRUNSWICK, ME – VSA arts of Maine announces the opening of their second show in August this year. Thirty-one new works from Matter of Perception 2008 are now on exhibit at the VSA Gallery on Western Avenue.

This exhibit runs from May 20 – July 14, 2008 and includes works by the following local artists: Caroline Boylston, Dresden; Kenneth P. Bryant, Waterville; Kimberly Christensen, Albion; Cheryl Corliss, Readfield; Lisa Ohanian, Waterville; Peter Pineault, St. Albans; and Anne Toothaker, Jefferson.

Matter of Perception exhibits are being held in fifteen locations around the state this year. They include work done in community facilities and, increasingly, by independent artists with disabilities. Work on display comes from every corner of the state and from many mediums: stained glass, fiber art, wall art made from wood and from wire, 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. These exhibits have been showcasing the work of adult artists with disabilities since 1996.

Every piece of art submitted will be shown at least once during 2008. At each installation a different group of jurors will select a small number of works to go on to the 2009 exhibition. This juried show will travel across Maine throughout 2009.

The VSA arts of Maine Gallery is housed at the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council offices, 225 Western Avenue, Augusta (by the Subway Restaurant).

For more information, contact Gracia Woodward at VSA Arts of Maine, 607-4016 or GraciaWoodward@vsartsmaine.org

To see images from Matter of Perception 2007, and for more info about VSA arts of Maine, go to www.vsartsmaine.org

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The following photographs are available upon request:

Emma Becker, Portland
Summer Evening By the Sea, 2007
oil pastel on mat board
10 x 14

Rosalind Ellen Bridges, Portland
Turtle, 200
Barn roof shingles, leather and cork
11 x 2

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 Sean 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 to honor the progress made by members of the disability community since the organization's inception.