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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monumental Sculpture and Artist-Designed Skate Decks at the Firehouse Center in April

Burlington, VT: (April 3, 2009) Burlington City Arts is pleased to announce two exhibitions at the Firehouse Center on Church Street, opening Friday, April 17th, and running through May 30th: *Micro-Macro*, featuring sculpture by Jason Hackenwerth in the Firehouse Gallery, and *Sk8Cre8*, a benefit for BCA's Mentor Arts program in the Lorraine B. Good room on the second floor of the Firehouse. *Sk8Cre8* begins on Friday with a reception from 3-8pm, and *Micro-Macro* opens with an artist talk and reception from 5-8pm. The sculpture installation of the *Micro-Macro* exhibition will be open for public viewing on April 15th & 16th from 1-4pm.

Micro-Macro, a solo exhibition by internationally exhibited artist Jason Hackenwerth, explores extremes of scale with his monumental, site-specific latex balloon sculptures and intricate kinetic works. Inspired by microscopic organisms, these biomorphic sculptures illustrate the increasing elasticity of human perception forced by recent technological innovations, from astrophysics to nanotechnology. Playful and disorienting, these works offer tangible examples of the evaporating boundaries of human experience and celebrate our intellectual ability to expand and contract notions of scale on infinite levels.

Also, as part of this exhibition from April 20th – May 30th, BCA's Gallery Education Program, *See. Think. Do!* invites youth and adults to the Firehouse Center for an interactive

arts experience. Visits last approximately 1–1.5 hours and begin in the gallery with open-ended questioning, discussion and hands-on activities, to conclude in the studio classroom where students will create their own original artwork to take home. To schedule a visit with your group or for more information about future *See. Think. Do!* programs, please contact Katie A. Nelson at knelson@ci.burlington.vt.us or 802-865-7551.

Sk8Cre8 is a group exhibition featuring local artists, mentors, and youth participating in BCA's Mentor Arts program. Some of the featured artists in this benefit exhibition are former *Weezer* bassist Mikey Welsh, *Tick Tick* artist Graham Keegan, Lou Laurita, Clark Derbes, Fairchild Fries, Coberlin Brownell and Michael Jager of Jager Di Paola Kemp Design and his entire family. The show is unified by a common matrix—skateboard decks—and a common mission—supporting area youth. Mentor pairs from the program will be working together on their design, accompanied by decks designed by local artists who will be exploring a plethora of themes and mediums. Artist-designed decks will be auctioned on Ebay to benefit BCA's Mentor Arts program. The auction begins at the opening reception and continues online for two weeks. For more information about the auction, please visit BurlingtonCityArts.com. Mentor Arts supports youth who have an aptitude for art but might not have the resources or support network to discover their talents. Youth are matched with adult artists for relationships based on friendship and a mutual love of the arts. Together the two explore a variety of media in BCA's studios and classrooms.

Micro-Macro is sponsored by Leunig's Bistro and funded in part by a grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. *Micro-Macro* and *Sk8Cre8* are an important part of Burlington City Arts, which is dedicated to the promotion of excellence, experimentation, and education in all forms of contemporary art. For more information about gallery exhibitions, special events, classes and workshops, please call 802.865.7166 or visit BURLINGTONCITYARTS.COM.

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