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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Three Art Openings in June at The Firehouse Center**

Burlington, VT: (May 21, 2009) Burlington City Arts is pleased to announce several new contemporary art experiences at the Firehouse Center on Church Street. Opening June 5<sup>th</sup>, with a reception and artist talk from 5pm to 8pm, is *Uncharted Territories* in the Firehouse Gallery, featuring Clark Derbes, Wylie Sofia Garcia and Ted Ollier. On the second floor, Bill Davison's recent monotypes *Vestiges, Hues, Fragments: The Lake Champlain Duck Hunting Series* will be displayed, and Artist-In-Resident Tara Jensen will open the Fourth Floor studio to the public on June 5<sup>th</sup> for First Friday Art Walk and several Saturdays through June. Both exhibitions are on display through August 1<sup>st</sup>, and Tara's residency continues through the month of June. These exhibitions are also part of the Vermont Quadricentennial, celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samuel De Champlain's arrival to the region.

*Uncharted Territories* investigates themes of abstract cartography, adventure, the relationships between personal and physical exploration and the human need to discover. Work presented in the gallery by Vermont artists Clark Derbes and Wylie Sofia Garcia charts personal journeys, invokes roadmaps and topographical maps and calls for audience participation to reassemble and interact with the work in an act of personal re-mapping. Massachusetts artist Ted Ollier will lead the audience out of the gallery using Global Positioning Devices to locate and create works of art throughout the city and the surrounding environs using a unique variation on the outdoor treasure hunting sport known

as “geo-caching”. In the tradition of geo-caching, participants will be encouraged to take something and leave something behind from each location.

Vermont artist Bill Davison documents his perception of the subtle variations of light, texture and atmospheric conditions accumulated over 40 years as an avid duck hunter on Lake Champlain with *Vestiges, Hues, Fragments: The Lake Champlain Duck Hunting Series*. Using abstract watercolor monotypes, Davison isolates the unique marks, colors, and forms which define each of the eleven distinct hunting locations on the lake, and viscerally capturing the experience of building blinds, setting decoys and retrieving killed birds in the light of day and darkness of pre-dawn.

Montpelier artist Tara Jensen is at the Firehouse Center Fourth Floor Artist-In-Residence from April through June. During Jensen’s residency, she will complete an installation of a witch hut containing three witches and their kitchen table. Interested in the witch as a social outcast and gate keeper between nature and society, Jensen seeks to “animate a consciousness that is comfortable with death, organic cycles and transformative magic”. The interior of the hut features paper mache, soft sculpture, found objects, plush dolls, and black lights. The studio is open to the public on Saturdays from 12-5pm, May 23rd & 30th, June 6th, 13th, 20th and for First Friday Art Walk on Friday June 5th.

*Uncharted Territories* is sponsored by Truex Cullins and Partners Architects and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. The exhibitions are part of the Vermont Quadricentennial, celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samuel De Champlain’s arrival to the region. For more information about gallery exhibitions, special events, classes and workshops, please call 802.865.7166 or visit [BURLINGTONCITYARTS.COM](http://BURLINGTONCITYARTS.COM).

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