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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amy Caron: Waves of Mu

Burlington, VT: (February 20, 2008) From March 7-23, Burlington City Arts introduces multi-media/performance artist Amy Caron's newest exhibition, *Waves of Mu*, at the Firehouse Gallery on Church Street. Through installation, theatre, video, and movement, Caron offers an experimental understanding of mirror neurons- a monumental discovery that recently rocked the field of neuroscience. *Waves of Mu* opens with a reception Friday, March 7th from 5-8pm, and is followed on Saturday March 15th by an artist talk at 1pm. As part of this exhibition, Caron will be holding ten evening performances throughout the month of March.

Created in collaboration with renowned neuroscientists and named for the electromagnetic oscillations that reflect mirror neuron activity in the brain, *Waves of Mu* successfully demonstrates Caron's contemporary sensibility while stimulating public interest in modern science. Scientists believe that mirror neurons illustrate that our brain involuntarily performs an internal simulation that replicates the acts or emotions of others, possibly explaining the phenomenon of empathy or the occurrence of social intelligence.

Waves of Mu consists of two rooms; in the first, the viewer enters a wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling representation of the human brain. The viewer then proceeds to an intimate, proscenium setting containing a curious theatric set that encourages the audience to participate while watching a performance. This exhibition combines hard science with

experimental theories that challenge conventions, resulting in a powerful vehicle for education.

Caron first became interested in how the brain perceives and processes information while researching a prior project, *Outright*- an experimental documentary film about gender. She continued neuroscience research at the University of California-San Diego with neurologist Vilayanur Ramachandran and at Harvard University with researcher Lindsay Oberman, as well as traveling to Italy to meet with co-discoverer of the mirror neuron, Vittorio Gallese.

The exhibition is free and open to the public during regularly scheduled gallery hours. Performances held in conjunction with the exhibit will be take place in the evenings of March 8-9, 13-16, 20-23, and are suggested for a mature audience. All shows are 75 minutes long and begin at 7:30pm; doors will open at 7:00pm. Suggested donations are \$10, \$7 for members and students. Reservations are strongly suggested due to limited seating, please contact the Firehouse Gallery at 802.865.7165.

Waves of Mu is sponsored by Stephen & Burns and the UVM College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences and is 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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