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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elusive Truths at the Firehouse Gallery

Burlington, VT: (April 21, 2008) From May 2nd to June 14th, artists Jess Bachman, John O'Connor, Ward Shelley, and Christopher Thompson join forces for the Firehouse Gallery's upcoming exhibition, *Elusive Truths*. An artist talk will be held on Friday, May 2 from 5pm to 6pm followed by the opening reception held from 6pm to 8pm. Gallery hours for this show are Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 12pm to 5pm, Thursday through Saturday from 12pm to 8pm and closed on Mondays.

Through the investigation of governmental and corporate strategies, mass media, and the art world, *Elusive Truths* seeks to expose and decode vernacular information using charts, maps and graphs, which aid the audience in probing, analyzing, and deciphering our world.

Ward Shelley and John O'Connor join local Vermont artists Christopher Thompson and Jess Bachman to explore the daily torrent of information we receive from newspaper,

television, radio, magazines, and the internet using methodologies taken from corporate imagery and scientific practice.

John O'Connor work develops idiosyncratic systems of mark-making, beginning with data and statistics—from rates of obesity and alcoholism by state, to temperature prediction and chaos theory. Ward Shelley works as an artist in Brooklyn, New York specializing in large projects that freely mix sculpture and performance. Shelley's work is a series of diagrammatic paintings; timelines of art-related subjects such as the careers of artists working in de-materialized media and the history of art scenes.

Chris Thompson is a Burlington resident and former employee of Jager Di Paola Kemp Design. Thompson's designs apply systems analysis to the art world using information graphics. Thompson's project is supported in part by the Vermont Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and The Vermont Community Foundation. Jess Bachman is a freelance graphic designer located in Burlington, VT. He provides a uniquely revealing look at our nation's priorities through a work entitled *Death and Taxes*; a combined look at federal budget documents. Bachman was recently a guest on the Martha Stewart Show, discussing his work and research.

Elusive Truths 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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