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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SHIFTING YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT GLOBALISM AT THE FIREHOUSE GALLERY**

Burlington, VT: Globalism is a term often used to describe the changes in society that are the result of dramatically increased cultural exchange. What are these changes and how do they affect you? Burlington City Arts is pleased to present *Location Shifts* at the Firehouse Gallery on Church Street, featuring three artists who explore these questions in interactive ways. *Location Shifts* begins at 5pm on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> with an artist panel discussion at 301 Williams Hall on the UVM campus. The exhibition then opens at Noon on Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Firehouse Gallery, with a reception beginning at 5pm that evening.

Today, the concept of “location” is no longer tied to a specific place. Globalism has expanded our understanding of location by making distances shorter, dissolving boundaries, and interconnecting politics and economies. The interactive projects by artists Christa Erickson, Kathy Marmor, and Paul Vanouse

in *Location Shifts* ask, how do we as individuals, traverse between the specific and the general?

Christa Erickson, Associate Professor at Stony Brook University in New York, has created a piece called *Search*, which uses video tracking technology to explore globalism by connecting viewer's movement in the gallery with a global trend. Erickson describes: "When no one is near, a large image of a hand and globe sit frozen. When someone wanders into its sight, the projection comes to life and starts the childhood game of spinning a globe and stopping it."

Paul Vanouse, Associate Professor at the University of Buffalo, has devised what he calls "*Active-Stimulation Feedback Platform*," which invites viewers onto a platform with over 2000 buttons, each mapped to a different city in the world. Visitors press the buttons with their bodies, which triggers audio samples recorded from 2000 different people worldwide. The interactive components are pulled together through a wall projection, which depicts a world map with drifting continents.

Kathy Marmor, Associate Professor of Art at the University of Vermont, with her project *Bird Watching*, superimposes an actual network of overhead satellites with the viewer's physical path through her installation. She writes, "'Bird Watching' uses cardboard boxes that are embedded with sensors to comment on [satellites'] invisible presence." Each work entices the viewer to physically interact with it. By involving the body, the artists shift our location, calling

attention to the fact that we are participating actors in this constantly shifting world.

In addition to the exhibition, on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm on the UVM campus, there will be a panel discussion focusing on interactive art, globalization, and digital technology. Panelists will include the artists, the artist collective, *Institute for Infinitely Small Things*, as well as IBM computer programmer, Steven Nelson. The moderator for the discussion is UVM Professor Tom Streeter.

*Location Shifts* is supported in part from a grant by the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, and is an important part of Burlington City Arts, who 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](http://BURLINGTONCITYARTS.COM).

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