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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summer 2008 Seven Below Artist Residencies Announced

Burlington, VT: (May 6, 2008) Burlington City Arts, in partnership with the Seven Below Arts Initiative, is pleased to announce the artists selected for the *Seven Below Artist-in-Residence Program (Seven Below A.I.R.)*. Six artists were selected for two different summer sessions, the first session being from May 31st to July 27th, and the second from August 2nd to September 27th. The *Seven Below A.I.R.* invites artists to work on projects at a site located outside of Burlington, Vermont. The residencies are designed to provide artists with a quiet, inspiring, and supportive environment for individual and/or collaborative work.

The six chosen residents were selected from a diverse range of applicants from all over the country. They are joined by new Seven Below Studio Manager and working resident R. Elliott Katz from Cabot, Vermont. A sculptor, Elliott is currently working on a series of cast concrete sculptures for his upcoming show, "Cultivate," with the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in June 2008.

Session one begins with Charmaine Wheatley and Haisi Hu, both from New York City. Charmaine Wheatley depicts everything from sunsets to eavesdropped conversations in watercolors, and will work on a Burlington area-based comic book during her residency. Haisi Hu, a native of China, works with narrative videos by using animated puppets, toys

and mannequins. She creates armatures for her characters and elaborated sets. The New York State Council for the Arts supported her last feature-length video, "Once Upon A Lifetime."

The second summer residency session, beginning August 2nd, will support artists Meghan Gordon, Thordis Adalsteindottir and David Herbert from New York City, and Matt Bollinger from Gladstone, Missouri. Meghan Gordon received her BFA in Painting from Rhode Island School of Design. Her work explores the world of period rooms and their relationship to painting. Thordis Adalsteindottir (a native of Iceland) and David Herbert are a collaborative team whose work comments on the history of the clergy working with artists and architects to communicate to a broader audience. They will construct a church fully furnished with stained glass windows, to be displayed on the second or third floor of a parking lift in lower Manhattan. Matt Bollinger received his BFA in painting and creative writing from the Kansas City Art Institute and his MFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. His paintings and drawings depict fictional social groups who congregate at music shows, in art collectives, or at karaoke bars. Within these contexts he attempts to examine specific characters in relation to the group. Informed by his interest in film melodrama, horror movies, and experimental music, the resulting narratives are like dream-versions of real events, which make emotional, as opposed to logical, sense.

Just prior to the summer residency session, on June 10th, 2008, Trey Anastasio's record company will be releasing a live recording of Trey's 2006 Atlantic City New Year's performance entitled "Original Boardwalk Style." It will be available for download as well as on CD and vinyl. All proceeds from sales of the recording will benefit the Seven Below program. The program's founder, Anastasio helped select this summer's residents. "As we move into our second summer, the number of applicants and their level of talent have increased. This year, I am especially excited about the diversity of the residents' backgrounds and the depth and range of their work."

The Seven Below Arts Initiative was established to foster artistic development and support arts education in the state of Vermont. Residents will be asked to share their artistic

process with the local community. This may involve a public talk, an educational activity for youth, or a professional workshop, to be determined by the resident and program coordinator.

The *Seven Below Artist-in-Residence Program* 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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