

PRESS RELEASE

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2020 Vermont Artists to Watch Opens in the Spotlight Gallery

Features work of ten contemporary artists

Montpelier – The Vermont Arts Council, in partnership with *Vermont Art Guide*, presents *2020 Vermont Artists to Watch* in the Spotlight Gallery. The exhibit features the work of ten artists selected by Vermont curators. From *Neveruses (Rte7)*, an elaborately woven and embellished construction of plastic, wool, silk, paper, wood and other materials by J Blackwell, to *Sky Meadow (image 5)*, a manipulated photograph by Kathryn Lipke juxtaposing land, water and sky, the art represents a broad spectrum of work being created by artists in Vermont, and/or whose work speaks to themes that are relevant to Vermont. The artists are: J Blackwell (Bennington); Mark Collier (Montpelier); Trevor Corp (Wolcott); Brian Fekete (Kingston, New York); Patty Hudak (Underhill); Susan Larkin (Isle la Motte); Kathryn Lipke (Belvidere Center); Misoo (Shelburne); Steve Sharon (Burlington); and Kathy Stark (Craftsbury Common).

An opening reception will be held Thursday, February 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. The Spotlight Gallery is located in the Vermont Arts Council office building, 136 State Street, Montpelier.

The ten artists are also featured in *Vermont Art Guide #11*. Exhibition Curator and Vermont Art Guide Editor Ric Kasini Kadour recruited ten additional Vermont art professionals and asked them to nominate artists who are making contemporary Vermont art that commands our attention.

“We are excited to host the third installation of *Vermont Artists to Watch*, an exploration of exceptional contemporary art in Vermont,” said Karen Mittelman, executive director of the Vermont Arts Council. “We hope that our partnership with *Vermont Arts Guide* will help to expand opportunities for our artists in other states, and also bring to our community more people who wish to get to know Vermont artists.”

The curators who selected artists are: Sophie Bréchu-West, director, 571 Projects; August Burns, independent artist and curator; Joshua Farr, executive director, Vermont Center for Photography; Jamie Franklin, curator of collections, Bennington Museum; Anna-Maria Hand, gallery director, Southern Vermont Arts Center; Kelly Holt, artist and independent curator; Ric Kasini Kadour, artist, writer, and culture worker; Rachel Moore, executive director, Helen Day Art Center; Mickey Myers, executive director, Bryan Memorial Gallery; Andrea Rosen, curator, Fleming Museum.

About the Spotlight Gallery

The Vermont Arts Council Spotlight Gallery is open to the public and located in the corridor and conference room of the offices at 136 State Street in Montpelier. There are times when the conference room is not available, but the corridor exhibit is always open during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

About the Vermont Arts Council

The Vermont Arts Council envisions a Vermont where all people have access to the arts and creativity in their lives, education, and communities. Engagement with the arts transforms individuals, connects us more deeply to each other, energizes the economy, and sustains the vibrant cultural landscape that makes Vermont a great place to live. Since 1965, the Council has been the state's primary provider of funding, advocacy, and information for the arts in Vermont. For more information visit www.vermontartscouncil.org.

About *Vermont Art Guide*

[*Vermont Art Guide*](#) is a quarterly, printed magazine about contemporary art in Vermont, offering a curated list of places to see art and publish profiles on artists, art venues, and public art. Each issue is a celebration of the state's great art scene.

About Ric Kasini Kadour

Ric Kasini Kadour is a writer, artist, publisher, and cultural worker. Working with the Vermont Arts Council, Ric curated four exhibits: *Connection: The Art of Coming Together* (2017) and *Artists to Watch 2018, 2019, and 2020*. Ric has also recently curated shows for Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester, Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, S.P.A.C.E. Gallery in Burlington, Antenna Gallery in New Orleans, and LeMieux Galleries in New Orleans. Since 2018, he has produced *Kolaj Fest New Orleans*, a multiday festival and symposium about contemporary collage and its role in art, culture, and society.

Ric is the editor and publisher of *Kolaj Magazine*, *Vermont Art Guide*, and *Art Map Burlington* and has written for a number of galleries. His writing has also appeared in *Hyperallergic*, *Vermont Magazine*, *Seven Days*, *Seattle Weekly*, *Art New England* (where he was the former Vermont editor), *OEI*, and many other publications. Ric maintains an active art practice and his photography, collage, and sculpture have been exhibited in and are part of private collections in North America and Europe. In January-February 2020, he is artist-in-residence at MERZ Gallery in Sanquhar, Scotland. He holds a BA in comparative religious studies from the University of Vermont. For more information visit www.rickasinikadour.com.

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