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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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Four new exhibits open at BMAC on Nov. 15

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Four new exhibits open at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) on Saturday, Nov. 15. All are welcome to a 5 p.m. opening party with the artists and curators, featuring live music, free food, and a cash bar. Doors open to BMAC members at 4:30 p.m.

The new exhibits include a tribute to the late art historian Meyer Schapiro and solo shows featuring Erika Ranee, Elliott Katz, and Ray Materson.

“Singing in Unison, Part 13: Homage to Meyer Schapiro”

was conceived by Phong H. Bui, co-founder and artistic director of *The Brooklyn Rail*, and a “prolific curator and leading figure in contemporary American art and culture.”

Meyer Schapiro (1904–1996) was “one of the most important and influential art historians and critics of the 20th century,” [organizers wrote in a news release](#). A professor at Columbia University for nearly six decades, “he fundamentally reshaped how art was studied and understood.” Through his [legendary](#) lectures, books, essays, and relationships with many of the leading artists and intellectuals of his time, “Schapiro left an imprint on both academic art history and modern art practice,” [organizers said](#).

Over the last 10 years of his life, Schapiro and his wife, Dr. Lillian Milgram, took Bui under their wing, adopting the [inquisitive young](#) Vietnamese artist and scholar as “their surrogate Jewish grandson.”

When invited by BMAC to curate an exhibition in Brattleboro, Bui proposed to pay homage to his mentor, who summered in southern Vermont for decades beginning in 1933.

Occupying three of the museum’s seven galleries, the exhibition includes works by 30 artists connected to Schapiro, including Mark Rothko, Philip Guston, Arshile Gorky, Grace Hartigan, Wolf Kahn, and Emily Mason, among others. It also features a selection of Schapiro’s own drawings and paintings.

Bui will lead an in-person walking tour of the exhibition on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 1 p.m.

“Erika Ranee: I Don’t Like to Draw,” curated by BMAC Director of Exhibitions Sarah Freeman, consists of recent abstract paintings made by Ranee from acrylic, shellac, spray paint, ink, graphite, oilstick, and found materials.

“I build each painting through a form of layering, drawing from the detritus of my daily experiences,” said Ranee. “I take cues from the cacophony of city streets, its sounds and

46 smells, as well as from minutiae of the natural world, and pull it
47 all together in an intuitive visual freestyle.”

48 According to Freeman, each piece is a time capsule,
49 recording the ~~days, weeks, months, and years that~~ passing time
50 Raneë worked on it. “Even her use of shellac seems to reference
51 the passage of time,” said Freeman, “as moments are captured
52 and frozen in shiny pools like amber.”

53 Raneë will offer an artmaking workshop at Brattleboro’s
54 River Gallery School on Monday, Jan. 17, 2026.

55 Vermont-based artist Elliott Katz’s first solo museum
56 exhibition, “The Purpose of Your Trip,” transforms BMAC’s historic
57 Ticket Gallery into a poignant reflection on heritage, migration,
58 and self-invention.

59 “Katz traces his Japanese American family’s journey
60 across North America — their migration in the 1920s, internment
61 during World War II, and their eventual life in Vermont — and
62 reimagines personal heirlooms and tools as evocative artworks,”
63 said curator DJ Hellerman. “The exhibition bridges past and
64 present, capturing the ambition and imagination needed to build
65 a meaningful life.”

66 The Ticket Gallery itself, originally a train station ticket
67 office, acts as a powerful metaphor, representing the movement
68 and regulation of people, whether by choice or by force. It is “an
69 apt setting” for works such as the replica of the suitcase that
70 Katz’s great-grandfather carried into ~~the~~ the United States’
71 Manzanar internment camp in 1942. Katz transforms the
72 suitcase’s original twill fabric pattern into alternating sections of
73 precious woods and renders his great-grandfather’s detainee
74 number and signature as a gilded emblem.

75 “Ray Materson: Common Threads,” presented in
76 connection with the Brattleboro Festival of Miniatures, consists of
77 seven tiny artworks—none larger than five inches in any
78 direction. Each picture is hand embroidered from thousands of
79 unraveled sock threads, a technique Materson developed when
80 he was imprisoned as a young man. Curated by BMAC Director

81 | Danny Lichtenfeld, the exhibition “is a testament to the myriad
82 ways in which creative, personal, and economic need can foster
83 uncanny ingenuity,” wrote organizers.
84 “Singing in Unison, Part 13: Homage to Meyer Schapiro”
85 closes Feb. 15, 2026. The other three exhibitions opening Nov.
86 15 remain on view through March 6, 2026.

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