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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

Nice advance!

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**HEADLINE ELEMENTS:**

#####BEGIN HED#####

1 Vermont artists craft a vision of democracy

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2 Indivisible Brattleboro organizes a multimedia art event  
3 at the Latchis, bringing together artists to express their love of  
4 country through visuals, word, song, and community

#####END SUBHED#####

5 TEXT BODY:

#####BEGIN TEXT#####

6 Indivisible Brattleboro hosts "What Does Democracy  
7 Look Like? An exploration in art and discussion" on Sunday, Nov.  
8 16, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Brattleboro's Latchis Theatre.  
9 Designed, according to the event press release, to  
10 "celebrate democracy through art, music, poetry, and  
11 discussion," the open-to-all event welcomes people from "across

12 the political spectrum. Come together to find common ground,  
13 celebrate local creativity, and discuss the future we all share."

14 *The Commons* spoke recently with event co-organizer  
15 Katie Allaway. From Wyoming, she moved to Vermont in 2019  
16 where, in Brattleboro, she's "found a community that inspires me  
17 and nurtures my family as we raise our young children. A space  
18 to call home."

19 In a career that promotes violence prevention work,  
20 Allaway works for Element 74, software that collects the data for  
21 domestic and sexual violence shelters across the U.S. She also  
22 "does federal reporting, grant tracking, and data storytelling  
23 across the nation," she explains.

24 As a volunteer, Allaway has been involved locally with  
25 Swords to Plowshares and Interaction Youth Services &  
26 Restorative Justice. This year, though, she's committed most to the  
27 Brattleboro chapter of Indivisible, a nationwide network of  
28 political action and response groups.

29 This latest Indivisible Brattleboro event was conceived as  
30 a vehicle for collective community expression by "a group of  
31 really dedicated individuals," at a meeting in March, she recalls.

32 In a breakout session, she and others dialed in on a few  
33 seminal questions: "What does democracy mean to our  
34 community? And how can we collectively reach out across  
35 barriers and polarizations that we individually experience to  
36 really learn how to communicate better, how to envision what  
37 we want for our future together across the polarities, to really say,  
38 'regardless of where you come from or how you've come to be  
39 who you are now, how do we work together and move forward  
40 as we find ourselves in this really unique juncture of time?'

41 The team "started to dream this event up, and it's turned  
42 into something really exciting," Allaway continues. More than 30  
43 visual artists will display work demonstrating what democracy  
44 means to them, and they will be joined by more than a dozen  
45 performers.

46 The lineup includes visual artists C. Tinsley, Carol Dodge  
47 Davis, Candace Jensen, Christine Triebert, Deidre Scherer, Diane  
48 Shamas, Ellie Weiss, Eric Stewart, IVPP (Izzy Victoria Perez-  
49 Poulson), Jane Kolias, Josh Allen, Karen Kamenetzky, Kat Gooch-  
50 Breault, Kirsten Ullrich, Kris McDermet, Lindsey Britt, Marie-  
51 Pierre Py, Naomi Lindenfeld, Pat Dodge, Phoebe Sparrow  
52 Wagner, Raul Gracia, Susan Bonthron, Suzanne Flynt, and  
53 Swords to Plowshares Vermont with related writing by Michael  
54 Louis Bosworth, B.H., and Cerina Heartwell. Their work will be  
55 seen in the entryway to the theaters and in Latchis' Theater One.

56 Bosworth's poem "Hemispheric Emigres" was created in  
57 collaboration with his wife, ceramicist Naomi Lindenfeld, as a  
58 tribute to her parents, who immigrated to North America in the  
59 1930s.

60 The poem starts: "Come, wander no more, America has  
61 let you in./You were the lucky ones. We are the lucky ones." It is  
62 complemented by a ceramic wall hanging reflecting emigration  
63 from the Eastern Hemisphere to the Western.

64 "This piece made with colored porcelain is my vision for  
65 refugees who are fleeing a tumultuous situation in their home  
66 country," Lindenfeld explains. "I hope for them a safe journey, to  
67 be welcomed in America, to have the opportunity to weave the  
68 fabric of their lives, and put down roots in this new land. We  
69 must speak out on their behalf and keep being a nation of  
70 compassion."

71 South Newfane photographer Christine Triebert has  
72 contributed "We the People," an exhibit of photographs she's  
73 taken at the area's resistance demonstrations and marches over  
74 the past six months.

75 "I wanted to make something that would speak  
76 powerfully to this moment in history when we are facing the  
77 potential loss of our democracy," she says.

78 "I came up with an idea to design a large fabric piece  
79 based on the elements of the American flag but printed in  
80 reverse," Triebert continues. "A reversed flag represents how the

81 flag appears when it's being carried into action, and it's used on  
82 all military uniforms as a symbol of courage and patriotism. To  
83 me, the people protesting the Trump administration are also  
84 patriots, marching to save our country's rights and freedoms."

85 One of fiber/textile artist Kris McDermet's submitted  
86 pieces is "The Veil — Restore Democracy." She says it represents  
87 "what we have lost and what we hope for."

88 Performers and readers on stage in Theater One will  
89 include Addy Russell, Alex Lockie, Andy Burrows, April  
90 Ossmann, Daniel Kasnitz, Jessica Stilling, Judith Reichsman, Mike  
91 Mrowicki, Tim Kieschnick and Wendy Fiering, and Verandah  
92 Porche and Patty Carpenter. The Good Trouble Choir, organized  
93 by Becky Gruber, will also perform.

94 Of her and Carpenter's contribution, Porche says,  
95 "collaborating and sharing our songs is the best response to hard  
96 times like these."

97 The creative duo wrote "Good Trouble" for the  
98 Indivisible rally honoring American civil rights activist and  
99 statesman, the late John Lewis, she said. Another tune, "In this  
100 Kitchen," "makes a meal of celebrating food and love and  
101 inclusive community," Porche says.

102 Meg Mott, a retired political science professor who bills  
103 herself as "Constitution wrangler" and speaks often on the  
104 freedoms and constraints of the nation's organizing document,  
105 will moderate a panel discussion among Brattleboro resident and  
106 Representative Town Meeting Member Gemma Seymour, former  
107 State Rep. Tristan Roberts, and Susie Webster-Toleno, a  
108 Congregational Church minister.

109 The discussion will be focused, says Allaway, on how  
110 one can hold different beliefs "and still hold dignity for each  
111 other, still allow each other to be human, and really practice  
112 listening. What does it mean now to listen to someone who  
113 doesn't think the same thing that you do and to give them space  
114 and allow them to be heard?"

115 Allaway adds that an after-party is planned at Sages Pub  
116 in the Latchis complex, "where people all across the spectrum  
117 can get together and maybe practice communicating in ways that  
118 we don't get to do normally anymore in our social media  
119 worlds."

120 Among events hosted nationwide by Indivisible chapters,  
121 this one is unique to Brattleboro's, says Allaway.

122 "Indivisible has a method whereby if your community  
123 has done something unique, you end up creating a handbook.  
124 How did you do what you [did]? Was it successful? Lessons  
125 learned? So it might be a starting point for other communities to  
126 be able to really take it and do their own thing."

127 She adds, "what you end up doing with your democracy  
128 is community specific. So Brattleboro being what it is, it makes  
129 sense that this is really coming out of our community. This is  
130 beautiful."

131 Looking back on 2025, Allaway reflects that seeing area  
132 action has been inspiring, "seeing how many people have really  
133 come to our Indivisible events, how many volunteers there are  
134 really working to make this possible."

135 "I do feel a sense of hope," she says. "I've not seen this or  
136 experienced this before in movement-making where people are  
137 just so ready to actually put their feelings and their thoughts and  
138 their values into action."

139 And, Allaway says, "regardless of our politics, our world  
140 really needs us to show up right now."

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Bio/COATTAIL:

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141 Admission to this event is free, but donations to  
142 Indivisible Brattleboro are welcome at the door. To register, visit  
143 [indibrattleboro.org](http://indibrattleboro.org).

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