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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 River Gallery School of Art celebrates 50 years of  
2 creativity and community

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3 Gallery 34 exhibition opens Feb. 6, launching a year-  
4 long series honoring the school's legacy

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

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6 In 2026, River Gallery School of Art (RGS) celebrates its  
7 50th anniversary. The anniversary year will kick off with an  
8 exhibition titled "A Shared Legacy: Artwork by the Founding  
9 Family," at Gallery 34, opening Friday, Feb. 6, from 5 to 8 p.m.  
10 Barbara Merfeld Campman and Ric Campman founded  
11 RGS in 1976. The exhibition features work by Barbara and Ric

12 alongside artwork by family members Taj Campman, Finn  
13 Campman, Helen Schmidt, Maeve Campman, Tula Campman,  
14 Aleika McAllister, and Akirno Carl Raychaudhury.

15 The school has grown over five decades “into a vibrant,  
16 inclusive arts organization serving people of all ages, abilities,  
17 and experience levels,” event promoters wrote in a news release.  
18 “Today, River Gallery School stands as a cornerstone of creativity  
19 and community in Brattleboro,” they said.

20 “This anniversary is an opportunity to honor our  
21 founders, our teaching artists, and the many volunteers and  
22 students who have sustained the school over the years,” said  
23 Executive Director Kimberly Carmody.

24 At the heart of RGS’s work is the belief that everyone  
25 benefits from creative expression. The school is committed to  
26 fostering an inclusive art-making community, with programs  
27 intentionally designed to support equity, access, and belonging.

28 The anniversary year will also include several signature  
29 events, including the Golden Anniversary Gala and Off the Wall  
30 event on Nov. 7 at the North Barn at Retreat Farm, and an RGS  
31 documentary film screening and discussion in December at the  
32 Latchis Theatre.

33 Gallery 34 will host a curated series of exhibitions  
34 throughout 2026, celebrating the people and stories that define  
35 RGS.

36 Upcoming exhibits include:

37 • May: “RGS Teaching Artists, Past and Present,” Gallery  
38 Walk: Friday, May 1.

39 • July: “Bob George: A Shared History.” Photographs of  
40 Brattleboro and RGSchool, Gallery Walk: Friday, July 3.

41 • October: “Off the Wall” exhibition, Gallery Walk:  
42 Friday, Oct. 2.

43 • December: “Seeds of the Future: A Youth Art  
44 Exhibition,” Gallery Walk: Friday, Dec. 4.

45 Looking ahead, RGS views this milestone not only as a  
46 celebration of its history, but also as a commitment to the next

47 generation of artists, learners, and creative thinkers. For more  
48 information, visit: [rivergalleryschool.org](http://rivergalleryschool.org).

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