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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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Eight new exhibitions open July 11 at BMAC

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Eight new exhibitions open at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) Saturday, July 11. All are welcome to a 5 p.m. opening party celebrating the artists and curators, featuring food from Guilford Country Store and Puerto Rican Bakery II, a cash bar by Stone Church, and music by DJ Prismatic. Doors open to BMAC members at 4:30 p.m.

According to BMAC Director of Exhibitions Sarah Freeman, the new exhibits — which include sculpture, painting,

12 drawing, photography, and textiles — take the opportunity of
13 America’s 250th birthday to explore ideas of cultural citizenship,
14 overlooked histories, and the importance of community and
15 belonging.

16 In “Learning to See,” artist Richard Haynes, who was
17 born in the segregated South, transforms a history of division into
18 a vision of unity and love, celebrating the beauty of togetherness
19 through depictions of everyday moments.

20 Curated by Alison Crites, the exhibition features acrylic
21 paintings, more than 50 black-and-white drawings, the artist’s
22 preparatory sketches for a series based on quilt patterns believed
23 to have conveyed messages along the Underground Railroad,
24 previously unseen images from his “Burning of the Bronx” series,
25 and more.

26 Taken together, organizers say, Haynes’s drawings,
27 paintings, and photographs “assert the artist’s belief that art has
28 the power to shift perceptions, to heal, and to unite.” Haynes and
29 Crites will give a public talk about the exhibition Saturday, Aug
30 29, at 5:30 p.m.

31 In “Magos de la Tierra (Magicians of the Land),” Orlando
32 Estrada and Jacob Reyes present sculptures, assemblages,
33 paintings, and wood carvings that examine the generational
34 impacts of migration and cultural disintegration, reimagining
35 ideas presented in the landmark 1989 Centre Pompidou
36 exhibition, “Magiciens de la Terre.”

37 Drawing upon their Puerto Rican heritage, “the artists
38 probe diasporic consciousness and the experience of otherness
39 within one’s own psyche, uncovering universal patterns within
40 buried histories,” organizers say. The exhibition was curated by
41 frequent BMAC collaborator David Rios Ferreira, who will lead a
42 walkthrough, along with the artists, Sunday, July 12, at 1 p.m.

43 Also curated by Rios Ferreira, “Formas Feroces y Tiernas
44 (Fierce and Tender Forms)” features the work of Boricuan artist
45 Juanita Lanzo. Lanzo’s partially translucent, layered paintings and

46 drawings of biomorphic forms “draw upon human anatomy and
47 the microscopic world,” said organizers.

48 The paintings “reference intimacy and reproduction,
49 death and decay, pain and pleasure, and the complex process of
50 healing from trauma.” A longtime educator, Lanzo will lead a
51 workshop titled “Exploring Your Inner Landscape” at Brattleboro’s
52 River Gallery School Saturday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m.

53 Both “Magos de la Tierra” and “Formas Feroces y
54 Tiernas” are supported in part by a grant from the Onda
55 Foundation.

56 Linda Sok’s “Warped Archive,” curated by Emily
57 Alesandrini, consists of jewel-toned weavings that honor lost or
58 destroyed Cambodian textiles. Based in Rhode Island and
59 Australia, Sok collaborates with her Cambodian family to
60 reinterpret written histories from such sources as French colonial
61 archives at the National Museum of Cambodia, family records,
62 and other museum collections.

63 Her work “explores the tenderness and tension that exist
64 between memory and imagination, posing the question of what
65 might be gleaned or remade from a warped archive,” said
66 organizers. Sok will discuss her work in a public talk Saturday,
67 Aug. 15, at 5:30 p.m.

68 The museum’s Ticket Gallery is the site of an exhibition
69 of graphite portraits and narratives depicting Vermonters who
70 have died from drug addiction.

71 “Drug Addiction: Real People, Real Stories” is part of the
72 national Into Light Project, which uses the power of art and
73 storytelling to address the stigma and shame experienced by
74 those who struggle with substance use disorder and to honor the
75 lives of those depicted. Each portrait and narrative was created
76 from photographs and biographical information provided by
77 surviving loved ones.

78 A panel discussion with representatives of the Into Light
79 Project and local experts in substance use disorder will take
80 place at the museum Thursday, Aug. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

81 Brattleboro-based artist Madeline Fan is a first-generation
82 Chinese American whose birthday is just after the Fourth of July.
83 “I grew up feeling very patriotic,” says Fan. “My mom even called
84 me her Yankee Doodle.”

85 In an interactive installation fittingly titled “Yankee
86 Doodle Dandy,” Fan looks anew at the well-known song and
87 nursery rhyme, offering viewers an opportunity to consider, “As
88 we celebrate our semiquincentennial, are we yankee doodles?
89 Macaronis? Both? Neither?”

90 Opening alongside the six new indoor exhibitions are
91 two new outdoor installations: “Migration/Home” was conceived
92 and organized by Brattleboro artist Jonathan Gitelson as a way of
93 marking America’s 250th birthday.

94 It fills the museum’s seven large, outward-facing window
95 bays with reproductions of original artworks created for the
96 occasion by members of Brattleboro’s resettled refugee
97 community — Marwa Safa Azimi, Butunga Bibimba, Abdullah
98 Elhan, Sean Kiziltan, and Zuhra Nadem.

99 The installation is supported in part by the Cohen
100 Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State
101 College and the Vermont Community Foundation.

102 “Big Choices,” which consists of two large sculptures by
103 Peter Dellert on the museum’s front lawn — a wrench and a
104 partially buried, vintage extension cord — pays homage to hand
105 tools.

106 The new exhibitions will remain on view through Nov. 1,
107 with the exception of “Yankee Doodle Dandy,” which closes
108 Sept. 7.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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109 BMAC is open Wednesday–Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
110 Admission is “pay as you wish.” Located in historic Union Station
111 in downtown Brattleboro, at the intersection of Main Street and

112 Routes 119 and 142, the museum is wheelchair accessible. For
113 more information and accessibility requests, contact
114 brattleboromuseum.org, 802-257-0124, or
115 office@brattleboromuseum.org.

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