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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Of Land and Local 2015: Opens September 25<sup>th</sup> at The BCA Center and October 1<sup>st</sup> at Shelburne Farms**

Burlington, VT: (September 17, 2015) Burlington City Arts (BCA), in conjunction with Vermont State Parks, Shelburne Farms and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, are pleased to announce *Of Land & Local 2015*, the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual statewide exploration of contemporary art. *Of Land & Local* is an annual multidisciplinary, statewide project designed to initiate a dialogue about issues surrounding art and the environment. New this year is a partnership with Vermont State Parks, which allowed artists to be in summer residencies in select parks through August, as well as at Shelburne Farms and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP.

#### **EXHIBITIONS:**

The BCA Center

September 25 - November 14, 2015

Opening Reception: September 25, 2015, 5-8pm

Exhibiting Artists: Stella Marrs, Jeroen Jongeleen, and Olga Koumoundouros. Jim

Westphalen will be exhibiting in the Vermont Metro Gallery.

Shelburne Farms

October 1 - 18, 2015

Opening Reception: October 1, 2015, 5-8pm

Exhibiting Artists: Kaylynn Sullivan TwoTrees, Wendy Copp & Susan Raber Bray, Alyssa Oxley, Angelo Arnold, Elizabeth Nelson, Riki Moss, Lynn Sullivan, Rebecca Schwarz, and Lyal Michel.

**ARTIST TALK:**

October 3rd, 3:00pm

Shelburne Farms Coach Barn

Free admission

This artist talk will be an opportunity for exhibiting artists to share their experiences about their time in residence at Shelburne Farms and in the VT State Parks. It will also give the audience a more in-depth understanding of the exhibited artwork.

The discussion will be led by Assistant Curator Ashley Jimenez, featuring artists Lynn Sullivan, Riki Moss, Susan Raber Bray, Wendy Copp, Rebecca Schwarz, Angelo Arnold and Liz Nelson.

**PANEL DISCUSSION:**

The New Working Landscape: Renewable Energy and the Aesthetics Of Vermont

October 13, 6:30pm

Shelburne Farms Coach Barn

Free, but registration is required. Online registration link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/panel-discussion-the-new-working-landscape-renewable-energy-and-the-aesthetics-of-vermont-registration-18119810842>

The last several years has seen a polarizing discussion among some Vermonters regarding our long commitment to our state's landscape because of different responses to particular, large-scale renewable-energy goals and projects. Join us for a fresh conversation exploring ways artists might help forge a deeper, and potentially more constructive, level of conversation as our values of sustainability move us away from reliance on fossil fuels and change the aesthetics of the Vermont landscape.

Introductory remarks by Gabrielle Stebbins: Executive Director, Renewable Energy Vermont and others to be announced.

Moderated by DJ Hellerman Curator and Director of Exhibitions, Burlington City Arts

Co-sponsored by Renewable Energy Vermont

**PANEL DISCUSSION:**

Natives, Slaves, Settlers and Visitors - Stories of the Land

October 18th, 2:00pm

Shelburne Farms Coach Barn

Free, but registration is required. Online registration link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/panel-discussion-natives-slaves-settlers-and-visitors-stories-of-the-land-registration-18119938223>

A multilayered panel and community conversation on stories of this place and its peoples that are often contradictory and incommensurate for different people living in Vermont.

This conversation is an invitation for community response to the installation “Natives, Slaves, Settlers and Visitors- Seen and Unseen” by Kaylynn Sullivan TwoTrees.

Panelists: Kaylynn Sullivan TwoTrees, Tom Wessels, Carolyn Finney, Judy Dow, Cathy Stech, and Jane Sandler

Moderator: DJ Hellerman

**Panelist Biographies:**

**Tom Wessels**

Ecologist

Tom Wessels is an ecologist and founding director of the master's degree program in Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England. He is the current chair of The Center for Whole Communities ([www.wholecommunities.org](http://www.wholecommunities.org)) that fosters inclusive communities that are strongly rooted in place and where all people regardless of income, race, or background have access to and a healthy relationship with land. He is former chair of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation that fosters environmental leadership through graduate fellowships and organizational grants. He serves as an ecological

consultant to the Rain Forest Alliance's SmartWood Green Certification Program. In that capacity Tom helped draft green certification assessment guidelines for forest operations in the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. Tom has conducted landscape level workshops throughout the United States for over 30 years. His books include: *Reading the Forested Landscape*, *The Granite Landscape*, *Untamed Vermont*, *The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future*, and *Forest Forensics: A Field Guide to reading the Forested Landscape*.

### **Carolyn Finney**

Author of *Black Faces White Spaces*

Carolyn Finney, Ph.D. is a writer, performer and cultural geographer. As a professor in Geography at the University of Kentucky, she is deeply interested in issues related to identity, difference, creativity, and resilience. In particular, she explores how issues of difference impacts participation in decision-making processes designed to address environmental issues. Carolyn is grounded in both artistic and intellectual ways of knowing - she pursued an acting career for eleven years, but a backpacking trip around the world and living in Nepal changed the course of her life. Motivated by these experiences, she returned to school after a 15-year absence to complete a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. The aim of her work is to develop greater cultural competency within environmental organizations and institutions, challenge media outlets on their representation of difference, and increase awareness of how privilege shapes who gets to speak to environmental issues and determine policy and action. Carolyn has appeared on the Tavis Smiley show, MSNBC, NPR and has been interviewed for numerous newspapers and magazines. Most recently an interview with Carolyn in the Boston Globe was cited as one of the top ten ideas/stories of 2014. Along with public speaking, writing and consulting, she serves on the U.S. National Parks Advisory Board that is working to assist the National Park Service in engaging in relations of reciprocity with diverse communities. Her first book, *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors* was released in 2014 (UNC Press).

### **Judy Dow**

Abenaki Basket Maker

Judy Dow, an educator and basket maker who specializes in sharing indigenous knowledge with children. She received the 2004 Vermont Heritage Teacher's Award. Judy is a Board member for OYATE and a member of the Governing Council of Gedakina as well as the founder of Saba. She has taught at schools, museums and community programs across the United States and Canada and has also presented widely on the Vermont Eugenics Survey. Judy is of Abenaki and French Canadian descent, and has made Vermont her life-long home.

### **Cathy Stech & Jane Sandler**

Descendants of Black Farmers of Lincoln Hill in Hinesburg

Cathy Stech is an Early Childhood Educator in Georgia, VT. A wife of almost 25 years to husband Shawn, mother to 2 wonderful young adults ,Ellie(23) and Josh(22), but most of all a proud direct descendant of the Peters family, Black farmers of Lincoln Hill in Hinesburg, VT.

### **Kaylynn TwoTrees**

Artist

Kaylynn Sullivan TwoTrees was born at and has spent a life at the crossroads where species, cultures, beliefs and the unknown collide and find both dissonance and resonance. As an artist/catalyst her current work focuses on re-orienting to indigenous mind; regenerating an essential relationship with Earth wisdom; and creating narratives of contradictory and incommensurate histories of place. She is past recipient of the Lila Wallace International Artist Award and her work has been exhibited and is in collections in the US, Europe and New Zealand. She moved to Vermont in 2012 and continues to find new connections to the people, land and stories and a way to connect to all her ancestors in this place.

## **OF LAND AND LOCAL 2015 ARTISTS**

Alyssa Oxley, from Vergennes, VT

Kiln formed glass inspired by nature

Rebecca Schwarz from Burlington, VT  
Participatory, post-consumer plastic sculpture

Riki Moss from Grand Isle, VT  
Imaginative mixed media creatures with an environmental focus

Elizabeth Nelson from West Glover, VT  
Plein air painting in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom

Lynn Sullivan from Adamant, VT  
A study of language in juxtaposition with the natural world

Wendy Copp & Susan Raber Bray from Burlington & Charlotte, VT  
Functional forms constructed from grape vines

Angelo Arnold from Barre, VT  
Revisiting history through carefully planted reliefs

Lyal Michel from Tunbridge, VT  
Contemporary narrative paintings in dialogue with the Marsh Billings Rockefeller collection

Stella Marrs from Burlington, VT  
A performative exploration of feminism, the environment, and community

Olga Koumoundouros from Los Angeles, CA  
A Coast to Coast examination of class and labor within a precarious economy

Jeroen Jongeleen from Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Pushing the human body to its limits, while considering its impact on our surroundings

Kaylynn Sullivan TwoTrees from Hinesburg, VT  
An installation drawing attention to Vermont's often marginalized past

Jim Westphalen from Shelburne, VT

Capturing the decay of the built landscape in rural America

*Of Land & Local 2015* is sponsored by Seven Days and the Vermont Department of Tourism, and produced in conjunction with Vermont State Parks, Shelburne Farms and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. *Of Land & Local* is part of Vermont Arts 2015, a project of the Vermont Arts Council, and is funded in part by a grant from the Vermont Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Farrell Distributing, Harpoon Brewery, Fluid Bar Service and Aqua Vitea are proud sponsors of BCA Center exhibitions and events. *Of Land and Local 2015* is an important part of Burlington City Arts, celebrating over 30 years of supporting the arts, which is dedicated to the promotion of excellence, experimentation, and education in all forms of contemporary art. For more information about gallery exhibitions, special events, classes and workshops, please call 802.865.7166 or visit [BURLINGTONCITYARTS.ORG](http://BURLINGTONCITYARTS.ORG).

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