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Adventurous Print Project and Auction Celebrates Two Arts Organizations' 30th Anniversary

BURLINGTON, VT— Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and Burlington City Arts join forces in a collaborative celebration of both organizations' 30th anniversaries. 30/30: Anniversary Print Project opens in the Amy E. Tarrant Gallery on Friday, January 6, and proceeds from an auction will provide scholarships to both organizations' youth programs.

Flynn Center Executive Director John Killacky is excited to host this joint exhibition at the Flynn's Amy E. Tarrant Gallery. "How thrilling it is to join Burlington City Arts in celebrating both organizations' 30 years of enriching the Burlington arts scene," he says. "Artists have been so generous in donating prints to support our youth education programs."

The exhibit features prints from Vermonters, led by artist/project coordinators Gregg Blasdel, Jennifer Koch, and Sumru Tekin. Adding to the fun and adventure of this print project, we've asked a few local "celebs" who were game to try their hands at the creative process. Each print was created in BCA's Print Studio or the studio of Jennifer Koch. **Prints will be displayed in the Amy E. Tarrant Gallery beginning Friday, January 6 through Friday, February 18. An auction of each print will begin at an opening reception on January 6 (begins at 5 pm).** Bidding will start at \$300, and will continue during regular gallery hours, ending during the closing reception on February 18 (begins at 5 pm). **Both receptions are free and open to the public.**

Participating artists include John Anderson, Marc Awodey, Sandra Berbeco, Gregg Blasdel, Harry Bliss, Galen Cheney, Ben Cohen, Cameron Davis, Bill Davison, Nancy Dwyer, Steven Goodman, Jerry Greenfield, Gary Hall, Valerie Hird, Michael Jager, Linda E. Jones, John Killacky, Doreen Kraft, Jennifer Koch, Madeleine Kunin, Sally Linder, Todd Lockwood, Marie LePré Grabon, Hal Mayforth, Katharine Montstream, Alice Murdoch, Beth Pearson, Gail Salzman, Kathleen Schneider, Bill Schubart, Sumru Tekin, Janet Van Fleet, Keith Wagner, and Grace Weaver.

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For images and more information, visit the Flynn's on line press room: www.flynncenter.org/pressroom/index.shtm
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BCA Executive Director Doreen Kraft says, “It is truly an amazing opportunity to work with these three master printmakers, Gregg, Jennifer and Sumru in the BCA Print Studio. It’s an opportunity for the artists to hone their craft and practice new techniques, creating works of art that the public will love, and help support our education scholarship funds at the same time. What a wonderful partnership with the Flynn!”

Artists came to the studios with ideas for their images, and then worked with Blasdel, Koch, and Tekin to produce their print. Each project coordinator used different processes with the artists, most of whom were unfamiliar with the printmaking process employed. Many shared personal stories about how and why they developed their concept.

Michael Jager says, “The whole experience has been great, totally inspiring. My piece is inspired by the purity of the print making process—the directness of expression and the elegant simplicity of it all guided me to the essential...in form, in content, in meaning. Though it may only speak to me of these things the volatility of life and love is what I was thinking about as the image emerged.”

Harry Bliss, who recently had an exhibit in the Amy E. Tarrant Gallery, says, “I am honored to be a part of this terrific project. My print image is a portrait of Bernie Sanders. His smart no-nonsense approach to politics is echoed in the medium of the woodblock print. Indeed, wood is emblematic of the strength of Vermont’s spirit. Cutting into the pine board, I attempted to convey a hard-working compassionate soul who embodies a righteous determination. For me, Bernie is the ideal voice for all those Vermonters that make up the backbone of our great state.”

For more information about the project and the opening and closing receptions, please visit **burlingtoncityarts.org** or **flynncenter.org**.

Support for the exhibit and related events provided by **Amy E. Tarrant** and **Free Press Media**.

