

For Immediate Release

‘Truth Telling’ exhibit enacts Canal Street Art Gallery’s Reconciliation Action Plan

Canal Street Art Gallery presents: *Truth Telling*, finding reconciliation through art. The *Truth Telling* show opens January 19th and is on view through March 2nd. Join the gallery for 3rd Friday Gallery Night in Historic Downtown Bellows Falls, Vermont, from 5-7pm on January 19th to experience the show and meet the artists. All gallery events are free and open to the public, for wheelchair accessibility call 802-289-0104.

Truth Telling aims to offer many ways to interact with and learn from the exhibit. Artists opening the show include Clare Adams, Carolyn Albracht, Kim Grall, Corinne Greenhalgh, Marilyn Hunt, Su Lin Mangan, MC Noyes, and Jeanette Staley. Artists joining the show after the opening include Benjamin West. New artwork and input will be accepted throughout the show to provide an organic community space surrounding the topic. To build a conversation throughout the show, a Writing Table along with the Free Community Art Studio both provide ways for visitors to express their thoughts and feelings, and ask questions. Visitor writing and artwork are displayed on a wall of the gallery as part of the exhibit.

The *Truth Telling* exhibit supports community well-being and resiliency by providing a safe and accepting space to use art as a way to interact with difficult subject matter. To include all artists, *Truth Telling* is curated through an open call for entry, and firstly reaches out to Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples. Upon announcing the *Truth Telling* show Canal Street Art Gallery enacts its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). RAP’s are created to help steer organizations’ visions, missions and actions with respect to relationships, advocacy and opportunity for Indigenous communities.

Along with the *Truth Telling* exhibit the gallery shares its land acknowledgment: Canal Street Art Gallery is located on N’dakinna, the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. The gallery, sitting along the Kwanitekwa, or Long River (Connecticut River), next to the Kitchee Pontegu, or Great Falls (Bellows Falls, Vermont) gives gratitude to the land and waterways and the alnobak (people) who have stewarded N’dakinna throughout the generations.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street, in Historic Downtown Bellows Falls, Vermont, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. For more information about the *Truth Telling* show or Canal Street Art Gallery, go to canalstreetartgallery.com online, call Mike by phone at 802-289-0104, or send emails to artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.

Dear W8banaki Tribal Council,

My name is Mike Noyes from Canal Street Art Gallery in Bellows Falls, Vermont. I ask for the chance to share with you our upcoming exhibit called *Truth Telling*.

Truth Telling is an art show in development to initiate Canal Street Art Gallery's new Reconciliation Action Plan. The concept for the show began with drafting the gallery's land acknowledgment. This was followed by starting to reach out to our Abenaki and Wabanaki neighbors, and then announcing an open call for entry to all artists. This is my effort to continue this process.

The *Truth Telling* show aims to offer many ways for the public to interact and learn, such as an artist talk on Saturday February 3rd from 2-5pm, and conversation building comment and question cards for visitors to use. Our new Community Art Studio Program provides a free space within the gallery to make art. All writing and artwork made in response to or inspired by the *Truth Telling* show may be displayed as part of the exhibit.

Submissions of artwork images for the *Truth Telling* show are due January 9th. New artwork and input will be accepted throughout the show to provide an organic community space surrounding the topic. The exhibit will be open from January 19th through March 2nd.

Below is the press release on the call for entry for the show. Attached is the initial promotional image.

Would the Abenaki bands of Odanak and Wôlinak be willing to share this with your communities?

Thank you so much for your time.

All the best,

Mike