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<http://www.artsomerville.org/nave/exhibits.html>

(Somerville, MA) *The Nave Gallery *presents* Fanning the Flames: Evolving Work of Somerville Arts Council Fellowship Recipients*. In this unique show, curated by Sandra Butler and Rachel Mello, a group of eleven visual artists, choreographers, filmmakers, and writers who received grants in early 2007 reflect on the evolution in their work over the course of one year.

When:

Opening reception: Thursday, June 12, 2008, from 6 – 8 p.m

Featuring readings and screenings from writers Ethan Gilsdorf and Bert Stern, and award-winning animator, Karen Aqua

Exhibit duration: June 12 – July 6, 2008

Gallery hours are Friday 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. (closed July 4th)

Where:

Nave Gallery, Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church, 155 Powderhouse Boulevard, Somerville, MA

What: By considering earlier work side-by-side with newest pieces, this exhibit highlights the evolving process and direction in the work of film animator, Karen Aqua; printmaker, Sandra Butler; sculptor, Benjamin Cariens; holographer, Betsy Connors; dance/choreographer, Karl Cronin, sculptor, Christopher Frost; writer, Ethan Gilsdorf; sculptor, Shaun Lynch; painter/printmaker, Rachel Mello; painter, Christina Renfer; and poet, Bert Stern.

The Nave Gallery is an important partner in Somerville's vibrant arts community. It is a project of ARTSomerville, a volunteer organization that draws upon the talents of local creativity, strengthening communication among artists and the public by presenting exhibits, performance, and educational activities. The gallery is a noncommercial art space featuring work of both emerging and established artists. All exhibitions are free and open to the public.

*Parking: *

Available in the West Somerville Neighborhood School after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends. The lot is located on Raymond Street. At the intersection of Powderhouse and Curtis Street turn right onto Curtis and take the first left onto Raymond. The lot is located about 1 block down on the left.

MBTA: From Davis Square take Bus 88 - Clarendon Hill Highland Avenue. Exit at Broadway and Curtis St. and walk 3 blocks north on Curtis Street. Turn right onto Powderhouse Blvd. and the gallery will be immediately on your left.

Members of this group of distinguished artists have shown their work locally at the DeCordova Museum, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Tufts University Annual Exhibit, the Cambridge Artist Association's National Prize Show, and at Boston University, The Museum of Fine Arts, and MIT. Many have exhibited and been published internationally as well. They are gathered together in this exhibit highlighting and showcasing Somerville arts.

Karen Aqua is screening experimental animated film exploring illness, the body, and emotional transformation, along with newer drawings.

Sandra Butler creates organic abstract monotypes and collages based on themes of exploration and visual play.

Benjamin Cariens focuses on religious ritual, cultural tradition and identity in his mixed media wall-mounted sculptures.

Betsy Connors uses holograms and photo-collages to address themes of the environment and the fragility in nature.

Karl Cronin has been developing vocabulary for contemporary dance movement and will show a video clip and stills of his most recent work, "Dry Earth".

Christopher Frost makes intriguing bronze and wooden assemblages from a variety of objects.

Ethan Gilsdorf writes about medical trauma in his book-length memoir and will read from his work at the opening reception.

Shaun Lynch explores themes of destruction and war in his ceramic sculptures and drawings.

*Rachel Mello** *paints urban images on intricately cut hardboard after she has printed the blocks in a relief manner.

Christina Renfer makes paintings and works on paper exploring personal narratives.

Bert Stern writes poetry on a variety of topics, and at 78 years of age, feels he is "at the top of his game". He will also give a reading at the opening reception.

For specific artist interviews please contact Rachel Mello (Rachel@rachelmello.com) 617-794-1922 or Sandra Butler (sandalbutler@gmail.com) 617-625-5214.