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public art  
exhibition

may >> august  
2008

## Overnight Art

Overnight Art 2008 is a public art competition resulting in a summer-long scattered site exhibition of outdoor art in downtown Portsmouth. The project is intended to showcase the talent of artists working in the Seacoast area, and also to highlight the important role public art plays in communities: enhancing our environment, sparking our imaginations, generating conversation, and stimulating our minds. This project was produced by Art-Speak, the City of Portsmouth's Cultural Commission, and funded by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts as well as donations by local businesses and individuals. Many thanks to the City of Portsmouth for their ongoing support.

## Art-Speak

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH CULTURAL COMMISSION

The mission of Art-Speak is to promote appreciation, awareness, participation and dialogue in the support of arts and culture in the Seacoast. Art-Speak exists officially on behalf of the City of Portsmouth, and performs these services for its citizens, its City Council, and all arts and cultural organizations in the Seacoast community.

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# Overnight Art 2008

1

**Giant Ant**  
Nathan Walker  
Stratham, NH

"Giant Ant" was designed to inspire awe and wonderment in the viewer, be they young or old. It was the artist's intention that the ant, a normally small and seemingly insignificant creature, would become larger than life - juxtaposed against an unsuspecting city. Constructed largely of recycled and found metal objects, the sculpture assumes a completely unassailable form; appearing as if it just crawled out of an alleyway, ready to begin its day.

2

**History in Liquid Motion**  
Jeanne Givens  
Rye, NH

"History in Liquid Motion" is a working welded sculpture, a solar powered water fountain made of found objects from local scrap metal yards. The focal piece is a mine mooring ball that came from the Piscataqua River. Both beautiful and functional, the sculpture pays homage to Portsmouth's working waterfront and its people.

3

**Umwelt Bench #5**  
Jason Probert  
Portsmouth, NH

The multiple levels of "Umwelt Bench #5 (Solar Powered)" are designed around the idea that each of us views the world from a unique perspective due to our different physical statures. By varying the height of the seating or leaning surfaces, our perspective is challenged as we relate to one another and the world around us. The bench's solar power is made possible through a partnership with Seacoast Energy Alternatives Inc., located in Dover, NH.

4

**Inside/Out**  
Jamie Calderwood  
Portsmouth, NH

"Inside/Out" comments on our relationship to the physical landscape and the natural world around us. Wilderness is kept at bay as we retreat into our warm houses on winter nights. In this piece the landscape is brought inside, and we can only peer in through a window. What we see is a reflection of ourselves with trees in between.

5

**Dialog**  
Susan Schwake  
Rochester, NH

"Dialog" is a large scale window banner featuring birds and vegetation. It was conceived to enliven the parking garage's façade by adding a bit of whimsy and delight to a utilitarian public space, creating an enjoyable pause in the task of finding a parking spot. The piece asks the viewer to pause for a moment and consider the idea of nature as larger than life size, thus fostering a momentary daydream.

6

**Bookmarks for the Big Reader**  
Roger Goldenberg  
Portsmouth, NH

Inspired by Tibetan prayer flags, "Bookmarks for the Big Reader" is a site-specific kinetic sculpture that whirls its colorful "bookmarks" in celebration of our new public library. The artist uses these simple place markers as a metaphor that calls to mind how books give flight to our imaginations.

