Locals in the Hall

“Made in Vermont,” Hall Art Foundation

By Amy Lilly

The Hall Art Foundation in Reading, a premier venue for contemporary art in Vermont since it opened in 2012, is trying something new this year: an exhibit of recent works by Vermont-based artists that are offered for sale. The show is called simply “Made in Vermont.”

The foundation’s southern Vermont location—there’s another in Derneburg, Germany, and a third at the Massachussetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams—constitutes a campus of three barns, a stone farmhouse and a clapboard home. Each building dates from the 19th century and has been beautifully restored and landscaped.

The foundation has previously shown only works from its own collection and the private collection of its founders, Andrew and Christine Hall. Together, these holdings comprise more than 5,000 works by internationally renowned artists such as Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons, Olafur Eliasson and hundreds more. Invited curators cull these holdings to create temporary exhibitions, which run from May through October.

The foundation’s southern Vermont campus, which opened in 2016, has been the space. “Made in Vermont” is mounted in the reception center—a small, intimate, lit reception area is small and intimate, but for its lips, that seems to thrust upward. Drilled holes for eyes create an intense gaze, and the gender-neutral face is animated by a series of tall black strokes that suggest.Diagnostics. “Tactile and Handy” in oil on canvas, is an animation of the sunlit cloudscape behind. The Hall is selling the works on behalf of the artists, and the prices range from $250 to $5,000, with the most expensive set at $10,000. All prices range down to $500 for each of Katz’s works.

One artist, Beltré, was included in last year’s show “Ready! Fire! Aim!,” a collaboration of the Hall and Burlington City Arts, in which works from the Hall are shown in Reading while a companion exhibit of raptographs by Vermont artists showed in the BCA Center. Though she didn’t curate that show, Katz is BCA’s assistant director. Of these seven Vermont artists, Jacobs is the only one the Halls have personally collected.

Another consideration of die-casters may have been size: “Made in Vermont” is mounted in the reception center—the clapboard house—where visitors meet up with docents on Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. (The Hall is open only on first Fridays, when visitors can wander ungauged.) The wall sits near a stone fireplace, which Jacques is so far the only one the Halls have personally collected.

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