Hall Art Foundation rebounding nicely from COVID shut down
Now offering popular self-guided tour option

By Tom Ayres
Senior Staff Writer

READING — The internationally ac-
nclaimed Hall Art Foundation in Reading is nearing the midway point of its ambitious 2021 exhibition season, rebounding with aplomb from a pandemic affected year that saw its galleries shuttered and programing canceled for all of 2020.

“It has just been wonderful to have visitors coming through the galleries again, interacting with the art, and to have art on the walls again. It has been absolutely great to renew that connec-
tion,” said Maryse Brand, Director of the Hall Art Foundation, in a phone con-
versation last Friday.

The Hall Art Founda-
tion mounts in exhibitions of post-World War II and contemporary art in three specifically configured barns and a converted his-
toric farmhouse on a former dairy farm in the heart of the Reading village of Frilch-
ville. A contemporary sculpt-
ure walk also wends its way through the former farm site. Retiring and new visitors alike will find that the Hall campus has been expanded with a new reception center, additional exhibit space, and café all housed in a 19th-cen-
tury, clapboard-style home.

The principal group show now on exhibit at the Hall titled “Deep Blue” and curated by Brooklyn- and Maine-based artist Katherine Bradford, whose own solo show, “Philosopher’s Clambake,” is running concurrently with “Deep Blue” at the Hall.

“Memory Bank,” a carved, polychromed sugar maple sculpture, will go on exhibit Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Hall Art Foundation in Reading as part of a solo show by Vermont sculptor Clark Darke from_cha_r_t. Photo: Courtesy of the Hall Art Foundation.

“Deep Blue,” currently the principal exhibition at the Hall Art Foundation in Reading, was curated by Brooklyn- and Maine-based artist Katherine Bradford, whose own solo show, “Philosopher’s Clambake,” is running concurrently with “Deep Blue” at the Hall.

The show is a meditation on ‘blue’ in all of its con-
texts,” said Docent Super-
visor Lisa Kaja as she led a visitor through the Brad-
ford-curated exhibition of “Deep Blue” works drawn from the 5,000-plus-piece collection of the foundation and its founders, philanthro-
ponsers Andrew and Christine Hall. “It took shape in the weeks of November 2020 and the election,” Kaja added. The “blue” theme, Kaja’s colleague on the Hall dis-
content staff, Marie Anderson, pointed out, even extends to the music that is playing in the reception center and café when visitors alight there. In a playful take on the fabled minstrel show of the 1980’s, the musical selections varying in the visitors’ center all cho-
curated by Katherine Bradford from Mike

“Deep Blue” to
“Philosopher’s Clambake,”
Bradford - range
musical selections airing in
American jazz,
Bradford’s own paintings in
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Classicopia chamber music returns to live concerts

C lasicopia’s annual award-winn ing chamber music organization, finally returns to live concerts with “Broad- way Viola” on the weekend of Aug. 13-15. Artistic Director Timothy Schwarz and pian ist/Artistic Director Daniel Weller will perform a selection of works from the 1920s to the 1996 U.S. Artistic Professional collaboration as Schwarz started their program with Eloise D’Amore’s 1980s, including works by songs from the 1920s to the 1996 U.S. Artistic Professional collaboration as Schwarz started their program with Eloise D’Amore’s 1980s, including works by

1) On Friday, Aug. 13 at 7:30 pm, they play in the Colonial Plaza at a program sponsored by FreshAir Community. Accompanied along with a gift from Anne and Bruce Taylor and the Turner Flute Ensemble, the amazing woman who helped run Turner Hall’s Chamber and for so many years before the park opened earlier this year. Seán is $20 for adults and free for children under 18.

2) On Saturday, Aug. 14 at 7 pm, they play in the Turner Hall. The Hall is a program sponsored by FreshAir Community. Accompanied along with a gift from Anne and Bruce Taylor and the Turner Flute Ensemble, the amazing woman who helped run Turner Hall’s Chamber and for so many years before the park opened earlier this year. Seán is $20 for adults and free for children under 18.

3) On Monday, Aug. 15 at 1 pm, the concert is at First Congregational Church of Woodstock with wonderful acoustic sound. Artistic Director Daniel Weller will play the piano. Weiser will perform exciting and free for children 18 and under. Discounts are available if you purchase tickets online.

For more information about any of these events, please visit classicopia.org or call 802-457-1626.

HALL ART From Page 1C

Anabel Weild, Kyle Butler and Luke Gibson, all of Brooklyn, N.Y, will perform at unfinished works by Amie Ka nter. Among their latest projects is an interac tional work that continues a commit ment to showcasing Vermont artists that the HALL instituted in 2018 with a curatorial approach: there are at least two solo shows by two artists. Now through Sunday, Aug. 22, the Hall is showcasing derbes show will open at the Derbes show will open at the H HALL ART From Page 1C

at the Hall during a time of significant pandemic-related restrictions were considerable. Brand noted, “Much of the work was done virtual ly.” Brand explained “Because of the timing of when the exhibitions were being planned and trying to keep everything moving, that was the way we had to do it. It was all virtually, by phone, or video.” There were also two digital models of the exhib itions that were passed back and forth, and then we did the installation using FaceTime and video walkthroughs. It was the first time we’ve installed a show that way. It was a very different way of doing things. But I think it worked out well.”

The COVID-induced changes in the Hall’s curatorial and installation processes aren’t the only ones in effect during the art foundation’s 2022 exhibi tions. The galleries and grounds, which prior to this year were open only for dedicated tours on a scheduled basis each Saturday and Sunday, are open this year for self-guided tours.

In fact, experts say that the self-guided tour option will provide greater numbers of people finding their way to the Hall’s gem of an art museum in the small, rural Vermont community of Reading.

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But that was with our previous visitor model, which was the docent-led tours, which people had to book,” Brand added, “what we’ve found this year, more than we have implemented a self-guided model, is that we are getting a lot more visitors. I wouldn’t be surprised if we end up with higher at tendance this year because of the self-guided format being perhaps a bit more popular.”

The self-guided format is greatly enhanced by the Hall’s creative use of dig ital technologies within the exhibit spaces. Hold your cell phone up in a small, touchable QR code near a painting or group of works and you can access an audio recording or video in which curator Brandie discuss ses the aesthetics of those works and why she chose them for the “Blue Deep” or “Philosophers” exhibits, respectively. Cell phone images can also take visitors to links to hand held devices that call up descriptions of individual works on exhibit, as well as curatorial, biographical, and other information about the artists themselves. Printed information is also available in binders in each exhibit space. There is not one thing this visitor found more interesting than the new approach as thinking about the Hall’s curatorial approach: there are at least two solo shows by two artists. Now through Sunday, Aug. 22, the Hall is showcasing derbes show will open at the

“A Madam in Vermont group show.” Instead of a showing of multiple Vermont artists, this year, the Hall is focusing on a single artist. Now through Sunday, Aug. 22, the Hall is showcasing derbes show will open at the

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F or solutions to this week’s puzzle, please see page 5 in today’s paper. A great Thanks to everyone who submitted their solutions to last week’s puzzle! If you solve a puzzle this week, please send it to: info@hopecommcarevt.com • Hopehomecarevt.com • Leah Stewart, Owner—

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MOVING SALE SAT AUG 14 - 9:3 • SUN AUG 15 - 10-3 Great Eclectic Things for Sale!

The Hall Art Foundation, located on Route 106 in Reading, is open now through Thanksgiving weekend on Saturday 11 - 4, Sunday 1 - 4. Call 802-457-1626 for more info. Photos Provided

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

VERMONT STANDARD—WOODSTOCK VERMONT

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