

# HALL

ART FOUNDATION

Widness, Sara. "Foundation brings world-class art to Reading," *Valley Business Journal*, August 2014, p. 4.



## Foundation brings world-class art to Reading

By SARA WIDNESS

Hanging on the walls of Horse Barn and Tractor Barn at the Hall Art Foundation in Reading, VT, are works of Olafur Eliasson. He is the Danish-Icelandic artist whose 2003 "Weather Project" installation at London's Tate Modern put the then-fledgling museum on the international map.

Visitors can now come to this tiny village to

experience how Eliasson expresses the natural world. His work arrived in Reading for public viewing in spring 2014. The foundation opened to the public here a few years ago.

But wait. There's more art in this cluster of now-pristine buildings, which once constituted the hub of an early 1800s working farm.

At Cow Barn, the work of Georg Baselitz is on display. Baselitz grew up in Communist East



COURTESY HALL ART FOUNDATION ©OLAFUR ELIASSON

Olafur Eliasson's "Waterfall, 2004", an installation made with scaffolding, wood, aluminum, pump, hose and water, is featured at the Hall Art Foundation in Reading.

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Germany, to emerge as a pioneer of German Neo-Expressionist painting. Among Europe's better-known 21st-century artists, his fame has brought him some fortune, enough to own a castle that he subsequently sold. London's Royal Academy of Art has exhibited his work. His name ranks with Gerhard Richter and Anselm Kiefer in Germany's pantheon of Post-World War II artists.

Another featured artist is Neil Jenney, whose series "Bad Paintings" broke with tradition at the time he started making a name for himself. His work is in the collections of, among others, New York's Museum of Modern Art.

On regularly scheduled free tours, Susan Piccoli, a docent, guides visitors first through Farmhouse, which houses Jenney's work. For the past 14 years she has taught art at Woodstock Union High School.

On a Sunday in early June, Sonia and Bill Valentine from Boston were en route to Stowe, and had stopped by to visit the skillfully hung work of these three giants of the art world, and to muse over Eliasson's massive exterior installation called Waterfall, 2004.

Up the road, Robert and Zonia Watroba,

owners for the past year of Watroba General Store, seemed pleased about the attention that Hall Art Foundation is bringing to Reading.

"If you have something, people will be coming," said Robert Watroba.

"We get the workers, the people who do the installing [of the art]," Zonia Watroba explained.

From her New York office, Hall Art Foundation Director Maryse Brand noted that about a dozen people, including some locals, were engaged in these installations.

Hall Art Foundation is the brainchild of Oxford-educated commodity trader Andrew Hall and his wife. The current exhibition showcases works of the couple's private collection, which has been commended by ARTnews.

The exhibits are open seasonally, May through November, by appointment. Admission is free. Hall Art Foundation is located at 551 VT Route 106, Reading, VT 05602. The telephone number is 802.952.1056, and the email is [info@hallartfoundation.org](mailto:info@hallartfoundation.org). The website is [www.hallartfoundation.org/location/vermont](http://www.hallartfoundation.org/location/vermont). Tours scheduled at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. can be booked through the website's online calendar. ❖