

Vermont Metro Gallery: Textures
Featuring Karen Henderson, Jennifer Koch, Gowri Savoor, Mary Zompetti
Burlington City Arts
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The new Vermont Metro Gallery located on the fourth floor of Burlington City Arts is a most welcome and much needed addition to the Vermont art scene. While Vermont, in general, and Burlington in particular offer many marketing opportunities for the entrepreneurial artist who enjoys setting up shop at the numerous craft fairs and artist run coop exhibitions that are held year round there are far fewer options for serious artists whose works are priced above what the casual or occasional buyer is prepared to spend. Serious local collectors who in the past have preferred to go to Boston or New York to keep tabs on exciting new artists will now have a reason to stay closer to home, and discover the innovative and collectable work being done by contemporary Vermont artists in all mediums in this new, airy, and sophisticated space.

Kerri Macon, the BCA Center's Director of Art Sales is the enthusiastic curator for this new space. The works are primarily selected from a pool of over 150 artists currently participating in the BCA's leasing program as well as those artists who live in or have strong ties to Vermont. Her goal is to provide an environment that showcases artists with solid exhibition résumés to their best advantage giving collectors an opportunity to develop relationships over time with particular works as well as with the artists who made them.

Textures, featuring work by four women artists is only the second show to grace this new space. A case can be made for the strong tactile, textural and sensual qualities that unite these artists but a wide range of medium and technique differentiates them. The lushly atmospheric weavings and fabric pieces of Karen Henderson seem to resonate most surprisingly with the photo based media of Mary Zompetti; the work is abstract but in both cases there is a complex layering effect that suggest landscape. Jennifer Koch is a prolific artist who has been working on three extended series of works. *Her Scissor Drawings*, collages made with and inspired by a 1925 Funk & Wagnalls' dictionary will be shown. Gowri Savoor, born in Manchester, England, makes work on paper and environmental sculpture that can be found in public collections here and abroad. She most recently won a Vermont Arts Council Creation Grant.

—Cynthia L. Close