



**For Immediate Release:
February 14, 2008**

**Contact: Ron D'Amico
617-954-2168**

Local Somerville Artists on Display at BCEC

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority today announced the final selections for "Somerville 5," featuring local artists from Somerville. The show, consisting of 14 paintings, will be on display until the end of June on Level One at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. It is part of the growing effort to bring the work of Boston artists to the public eye.

Sue Merritt, Art Consultant for the MCCA, discovered Somerville's Diane Novetsky at the Artist's Toolbox, an art review program created by the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Boston to help local artists polish and advance their professional careers. Novetsky shared her connections to other Somerville artists, which led to the final selections.

"Our goal was to present a show that had a strong visual impact by showcasing paintings that are large scale, with rhythmic shapes, patterns and textures. Most importantly, we wanted to achieve an overall sense of color harmony in such a large space at the BCEC," said Merritt.

Out of the large art community in all of Somerville, only five were invited to exhibit their paintings at the BCEC. Four out of the five artists, Diane Novetsky, Alyson Schultz, Kelvy Bird and Resa Blatman, work out of The Vernon Street Studio in Somerville. Ron Brunelle works at Pearl Street Studios. The 10th Annual Somerville Open Studios weekend is scheduled for May 3rd and 4th. Over 300 Somerville artists, including Novetsky, Schultz, Bird, Blatman and Brunelle, open their studios to the public for this annual art celebration.

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA and the Boston Common Parking Garage. In fiscal year 2007, the MCCA hosted at the BCEC and the Hynes 305 events with over 1.6 million attendees that generated nearly 1.1 million hotel room nights and \$890 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

Large upcoming events at the BCEC includes the International Boston Seafood Show drawing 28,000 attendees 2/19 through 2/28; the AIIM/OnDemand Conference drawing 35,000 attendees 2/28 through 3/8; the National Science Teacher's Association Annual Conference drawing 21,000 attendees 3/24 through 3/31; and the Sports & Fitness Expo bringing over 60,000 attendees 4/18 through 4/20.

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