SHEN MoCA | Shenandoah Museum of Contemporary Art

411 E King Street, Strasburg, VA 22657 540.333.4252 Rupert Ravens, Director/Curator rupert@ShenMoca.org ShenMoca.org

For immediate release:

The Strasburg Biennial : The River Between Us...

AK Airways A.Kimberlin Blackburn Bruce Conner China Blue Christopher Hart Chambers Cris Dam David Ellis Elio Franceschelli Fred Gutzeit German Pitre Grace Graupe Pillard Jason Ryan Simmons Joy Yagid June Wilson Kate Dodd Kathleen Vance Kris Viemeister Leigh Henry Les Ayre Loren Munk Lucia Ravens Mark Andreas Melissa Pokorny Nina Levy Pam J. Brown Patrick Doyle Paul Zdepski Rachel REN Crawford Richard Wislocky roycrosse Stefanie Nagorka Stephen Mallon Steve McKenzie Terry Ward Thomas Broadbent Tina Han Victoria Hanks Viggo Mortensen Viktor Alimpiev Yoko Ono

Exhibition includes Local, Regional, National and International Artists

SHEN MoCA presents 41 simultaneous artist projects in 3 venues

August 18 - December 1, 2018

Hours: | 3 - 9 PM Friday | 12 - 6 PM Saturday & Sunday | And by appointment

"...the river is everywhere at once, at the source and at the mouth, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the rapids, in the sea, in the mountains, everywhere at once, and that there is only the present time for it, not the shadow of the past, not the shadow of the future" -- Hermann Hesse Siddhartha

"'cause I know there is strength in the differences between us and I know there is comfort where we overlap." -- Ani DiFranco Overlap

"There's a river somewhere that flows through the lives of everyone." -- Roberta Flack <u>River</u>

A river is more than an amenity.... It is a treasure. It offers a necessity of life that must be rationed among those who have power over it." -- Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr New Jersey v. New York

A river is spontaneous... an Arcadian watercourse. Freshwater flow follows flow. Surging ahead, it conveys life to the flora and fauna of its jurisdiction. Upstream, downstream sweeping with, or against the current and swirl. Serene and level today, unconstrained stormy swollen destructive flooding tomorrow. A tributary's waters are sacrosanct. Innate verve is its transcendent gift. Above ground or subterranean in cave pools, circulating and percolating at the mercy of the rhythmic tide, gesture is ever present.

Rocks, rapids, waterfalls, natural dams; nothing impedes its shape-shifting, driving force to advance. Ever-morphing yet fleeting ripples of surface-splendor oscillate. A visual feast ceaselessly unfolds. As stirring artwork does, the lush glimmering... lulls one into contemplation. From reverie arises new perception. Serenading the moment of now, cascading chain-reaction pours forth into pools of timeless observation.

Echoing nature, humankind creates rivulets of symbolic gushing in life: of distribution, design and data, of social media, relationships and genealogy. We generate nourishment for the body, soul and mind... along with streams of income and expectations. Occasionally we can be separated by ideology, appearing on opposite banks, but as a species that creates tools... we tend to build bridges.

Wade into the artistry and inspiration flowing through Strasburg.

The River Between Us...

Come on in, the water's fine.

SHEN MoCA

Established in 2017 by Rupert Ravens as a contemporary art destination and cultural anchor for Shenandoah Valley's cultural renaissance.

An international platform for Art, Nature & Technology projects that celebrate visionaries who take us on perceptual, adventurous, and transformative journeys.

The museum showcases artists who explore visual language implicitly in a way that is concise, authentic and vital.

The Strasburg Biennial - three locations:

411 E. King St - Sculpture, Paintings, Videos, Installations, Banners, Digital Prints, Photos

388 W. Queen St - Sculptures, Light & Sound installations, Inflatables, Video, Interactive

174 E. King St - Photos | Strasburg Town Hall Gallery - Monday thru Friday 9 AM - 5 PM

(See website for directions, FREE on site parking provided.) **http://shenmoca.org** For more information, please contact RR at 540.333.4252 or email: rupert@shenmoca.org

