

# Blanchette

## Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

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### A new regional gallery makes it's debut...

Recently I became aware of a new art gallery that has opened in Chester, Vermont less than 3 months ago. **VTica (Vermont Institute of Contemporary Art)** is a welcome addition to the southern Vermont region, and according to its founders, hopes to foster a wide range of programs including a museum, an educational component with workshops, musical performances, film presentations, lectures as well as the art gallery itself.

Robert Sarly, President and Abby Raeder, Executive Director, besides creating a very nice space for contemporary art viewing have already started off with a very ambitious schedule of shows and events, some of which my wife Karen and I have already taken advantage of. In the past few weeks we have attended a film showing and discussion, a jazz quartet performance, and an art opening. It's an arts center with a lot of potential, but it will need more than just the local community to support it. As they reach out to the region, I highly recommend it as a destination to visit, especially for some of their weekend programs which are held in the art gallery. VTica is easy to find on Rte 103 in downtown Chester and you can get more information online at [www.VTica.org/](http://www.VTica.org/)

When I met Abby and Robert for the first time I realized that these were genuinely unpretentious people who I would like to get to know, and we have struck up a relationship that may eventually benefit the both of us. They were more than willing to accept some of my suggestions for programs to consider, as well as other ideas I thought might help in their success.

In return, they asked if they could visit my studio some time, so on March 4th, they stopped by for that visit and checked out what I was doing. I was very appreciative that they would make the trip, as well as their enthusiasm for my recent artwork.



*Abby Raeder, VTica's Executive Director and Robert Sarly, President, pose with me at my studio in front of five of my "ice works" now in process. Although they liked these "as is" I explained that they need quite a bit of work before my vision of them is complete.*

Meanwhile, on the home front...my wife, "Catwoman", is foster-parenting six 3 week old kittens!! Adoptive families for all but 2 have already been *approved*, but if you are responsible and interested you can contact us by email. ([bblanchette@mac.com](mailto:bblanchette@mac.com))

