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iiLUMENating installaton

The 413
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Thursday, July 10
Lumens, an installation of lamps networked across three art spaces — Greylock Arts in Adams, MCLA Gallery 51 Annex in North Adams, and online at turbulence.org, opens tonight in North Berkshire and in cyberspace.

For the interactive exhibition, Berkshire artists Matthew Belanger, Sean Riley and Ven Voisey put out a call last May to borrow lamps from homes and shops in Adams and North Adams.

They also collected personal stories and histories about the lamps for a virtual gallery on turbulence.org. The online installation connect the two physical locations telematically.

"As an individual wanders through the gallery space, clusters of lamps illuminate in response to their presence and simultaneously illuminate lamps in the counterpart spaces," said Belanger. "It's in this way that an individual in Adams can communicate his/her presence to an individual in North Adams, and vice versa."

As visitors investigate the history of a particular lamp online, it will also illuminate in the physical gallery space.

The artists worked with Tom Igoe, a professor of interactive telecommunication at New York University, to make the lamps interactive. A lumen is a measurement of the perceived power of light.

To date the artists said they have collected over 100 lamps, but hope to collect more.

"Even after the show is installed we're going to continue to accept lamp donations and add them to

the installation and online gallery. The piece will keep expanding and growing" said Riley.

"Lumens allows us to examine the metaphorical links between the two communities, investigate the personal histories that make our communities what they are, and ultimately illuminate the effect of our actions and presence upon our communities," said Voisey.

A shuttlebus will be available to transport people between Adams and North Adams during tonight's opening event.

Lumens will run through Oct.31.

The show is part of a broader project, "Networked Realities: (Re)Connecting the Adamases," that seeks other works by area artists on the Adams-North ASDams relationship.

The exhibitions were made possible through the support of New Radio and Performing Arts, Inc. with funding from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the LEF Foundation, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

For more information, visit www.turbulence.org/networkedrealities.

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