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Lumens opens July 10

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NORTH ADAMS -- Greylock Arts, MCLA Gallery 51, and Turbulence have announced "Lumens," an interactive light installation by artists Matthew Belanger, Sean Riley and Ven Voisey. Lumens re-connects North Adams and Adams -- originally a single community

-- through an exploration of location, influence, history and the present.

A project of "Networked Realities: (Re)Connecting the Adamases," Lumens is an installation of lamps networked across three spaces: Greylock Arts, MCLA Gallery 51 Annex, and Turbulence.org. Scores of personal lamps that usually inhabit and illuminate the interiors of homes and shops have been borrowed, from the residents of Adams and North Adams, filling two gallery spaces: Greylock Arts in Adams and MCLA Gallery 51 Annex in North Adams.

In addition to the lamps, the personal stories and histories that accompany the lamps have been collected. These are represented in a virtual gallery on turbulence.org, which also serves to connect the two locations telematically.

According to Belanger, "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. It's in this way that an individual in Adams can communicate his/her presence to an individual in North Adams, and vice versa." Additionally, as visitors investigate the history of a particular lamp online it also will

illuminate in the physical gallery space.

To date, the artists have collected over 100 lamps. But, they hope to collect even more. "Even after the show is installed were going to continue to accept lamp donations and add them to the installation and online gallery. The piece will keep expanding and growing," Riley said.

In examining this collective process, Voisey said, "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."

There will be three opening celebrations for Lumens on Thursday, July

10, from 6-9 p.m. at Greylock Arts at 93 Summer St. in Adams, MCLA Gallery 51 Annex at 65 Main St. in North Adams, and online at

www.turbulence.org/networkedrealities. A shuttle bus will be available to transport people between Adams and North Adams during the opening event. Lumens will run through Oct. 31.

Lumens is a part of DownStreet Art: A Celebration of Art in North Adams.

DownStreet Art highlights the abundance of art in the city of North Adams

with the creation of seven new galleries and the marketing of over 20 art destinations.

In addition to Lumens, other DownStreet Art exhibitions include: "Primary Secondary Volumes 1 & 2," featuring the work of twenty of the drafts people working on the Sol LeWitt retrospective at Mass MoCA; Jarvis Rockwell's "Maya III," a 9-foot pyramid covered in action figures with a live drawing the artist will complete through the summer months; the member-run North Adams Co-Op Gallery exhibiting local and regional fine arts and crafts; "The Grandfather Paradox," a narrative installation exploring the improbability of time travel by artist Mark W. Mulherrin at 73 Main Street Annex;

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