

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Habitat for Artists

at Spire Studios 45 Beekman St, Beacon, NY
Curated by Simon Draper
Sponsored by Ecoartspace, Curator Amy Lipton
May 17 – September 30, 2008

ARTISTS: Dar Williams, Chris Albert, Richard Bruce, Sharon Butler, Alexis Elton, Matthew Kinney, Kathy Feighery, Marnie Hillsley, Sara Mussen, Lori Nozick and Simon Draper.

Ten artists from the Hudson Valley region have been invited by artist Simon Draper to participate in *Habitat for Artists*, a site-specific, collaborative exhibition project at Spire Studios located in Beacon, NY. Draper has provided each artist with a basic 6ft. by 6ft. shed, to be used as an artist's habitat/workspace for an extended term. Between May 17th – September 30th, each artist will inhabit their own simple and temporary structure and use the space to create art works or turn the structure itself into an artwork.

Draper has long been working with concepts regarding habitat/shelter in his own art practice. The concept behind *Habitat for Artists*, functions as a metaphor for Draper's personal art making activity and provokes larger questions regarding marginal spaces, artists as pioneers in developing neighborhoods and communities and the ongoing migration of artists from these places they helped to nurture and create. The question becomes, in a time of escalating prices for artist's workspace and as artists flee Manhattan and Brooklyn in search of more affordable workspace such as in the Hudson Valley region - how much space does an artist need to create their work?

Each artist involved in this project will adapt their shed to suit their own needs. The sheds have been outfitted with simple openings, doors, windows or skylight. As much as possible, the materials used in the creation of the structure will consist of reclaimed and re-used components. Each artist will have the shed space available for use for a month prior to the opening. The artists will continue working/inhabiting the sheds after May 17th. The sheds as well as the artworks inside will be available for sale, with a 10% donation going to ecoartspace.

About ecoartspace:

Ecoartspace is one of the leading international organizations whose focus is on the intersection of art and ecology. Established as a non-profit in 1999, they provide a platform for artists addressing environmental issues.

Ecoartspace promotes a diverse range of artworks that are participatory, collaborative, interdisciplinary and educational. Ecoartspace is bi-coastal and operated by Patricia Watts in Sonoma, CA and Amy Lipton in Garrison, NY.

For further information contact:

Amy Lipton

Curator, ecoartspace

917 743 8275

amy@ecoartspace.org

www.ecoartspace.org