

# CMCA

Center for Maine Contemporary Art

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## **Raw Evidence - First Installment of Exhibitions**

***David Segre: Chronic***  
***Art from the LINC and Waterville Social Clubs***

**September 20–December 20, 2008**

### **Related Events:**

Thursday, October 30, 5-7 pm  
Sunday, November 2, 2 pm

Opening Reception  
Poetry reading by LINC Social Club writers  
free for CMCA Members or with admission

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Raw Evidence: CMCA Showcases Artwork and Portraits of Mentally ill Individuals**

The Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA) will open two new exhibitions in its lower floor galleries on September 20 - ***David Segre: Chronic*** and ***Art from the LINC and Waterville Social Clubs***. The opening reception for these exhibitions will coincide with the reopening of the Main and Loft Galleries on October 30 from 5-7:00 pm. All exhibitions will be on view until December 20, 2008, when CMCA closes its doors for the rest of the year. On November 2, members of the LINC Social Club writing workshop, led by poet Lee Sharkey, will read from their work. Admission is free for members or with admission.

**David Segre: Chronic** in the Bruce Brown Gallery is an engaging exhibition that asks us to take an interest in a segment of society not often in the limelight. Emerging photographer David Segre's black-and-white portraits of mentally ill individuals highlight the dynamic characteristics and unique circumstances of their lives. His subjects are either living in psychiatric residential homes, on the street, or on their own in the community with the support of social service organizations. Segre's series of portraits aims to highlight the plight of some of the most vulnerable citizens of our society and is meant to raise awareness of the need for mental health services in Maine. Many sitters considered being photographed as their contribution to this cause, and all of them received copies of their portraits. Often looking straight at the camera and us the viewer, these images emphatically question the way our beliefs in conventional behavior influence how we relate to each other.

David Segre (b. 1972) switched from a medical career to photography in 2003 and has been a member of the Bakery Photographic Collective in Westbrook since 2005. While most of his work reveals his continued deep concern for the welfare of his fellow beings, his explorations extend into human interaction with space and nature as well.

CMCA invited activist artist Natasha Mayers to be the organizing curator for the exhibition **Art from the LINC and Waterville Social Clubs**. Mayers has worked with mentally ill people since 1974, encouraging self-expression through the making of art. The LINC Social Club in Augusta and the Waterville Social Club are run by the non-profit organization Motivational Services for people with mental illnesses. For a small monthly fee, they are offered meals, laundry facilities, telephones, workshops on life skills, and a place to come to during the day. In addition, members have the opportunity to make art in the form of drawings, paintings, sculpture, or creative writing. Most importantly though, individuals come to the club to be part of a self-governing community that draws them out of the isolation imposed by their illness.

The Tucker Gallery will abound with visual artwork created in workshops facilitated by Mayers, as well as excerpts from poems written in the LINC Club writing workshop under the tutelage of Lee Sharkey, who has been leading the workshop since 1987. The artists' intensely rendered words and images pull us into the pain and joy of their experience. On November 2 at 2 pm, members of the writing workshop will read their poetry in the gallery and talk with the audience about their work. The event is free for members and included in the gallery admission for others.

*David Segre: Chronic* is supported by the Thomas Peter Michelena Fund for Photography.



*left to right: David Segre, Tara; Charles Stratton, Heaven*

For print-ready images, please call 207-236-2875 x302

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The Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA) is a nonprofit organization advancing contemporary art in Maine through exhibitions and educational programs. CMCA is located at 162 Russell Avenue in downtown Rockport. Summer Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. Sunday, 1-5 pm. Closed Monday. Winter Hours (starting Nov. 1) are Thursday through Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. Sunday, 1-5 pm. Closed Monday-Wednesday. General admission is \$5.00. Admission is free for members, Rockport residents and children. The facilities are fully wheelchair accessible. For more information phone 207-236-2875 or consult the website at [www.cmcanow.org](http://www.cmcanow.org).