

MYSTICARTSCENTER

CREATIVITY CULTURE COMMUNITY

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Claudia Widdiss Sculpture Exhibit Opens with the Mystic Arts Center Members' Show

MYSTIC, CT – January 4, 2008 – The powerful and dramatic steel sculptures created by Claudia Widdiss belie her gentle nature. A special exhibition of Widdiss' work will be on display at the Mystic Arts Center from January 11 through February 23 in *Between Light and Shadow*.

"I have admired Claudia's work for years and am excited to showcase new pieces that she created especially for this show," says Executive Director Karen Barthelson.

Widdiss grew up in Harlem, New York City in the 1960s, where she attended the High School of Art and Design. After receiving the Chaloner Prize Foundation Grant at age 19, Widdiss apprenticed with English sculptor Denise Mitchell in Cornwall for one year and spent an additional year studying in Carrara, Italy.

"Inspiration for my work comes from many cultures," Widdiss has written. "In recent years I have used patterns and texture to create rhythm in space and I enjoy the challenge of manipulating the rigid material of steel into soft lyrical form."

Today, Widdiss is professor of art and sculpture at Eastern Connecticut State University where she continues to work her metal magic.

Widdiss' exhibition will run simultaneously with the Mystic Arts Center's Annual Members' Show through February 23. A joint opening, entitled *Kindred Spirits*, will be held Friday, January 11 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. with neighboring Courtyard Gallery.

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Kindred Spirits is the third annual joint reception showcasing both galleries' annual member shows. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and sweets will be served, and the receptions are free and open to the public. At 7:30 p.m., a painting by local artist S. Chandler Kissell will be auctioned by Courtyard Gallery to benefit the Mystic Arts Center.

For more information, call 860-536-7601 or visit www.mysticarts.org. The Mystic Arts Center is located at 9 Water Street in downtown Mystic, and is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting creativity, culture and community. The Courtyard Gallery is located at 12 Water Street in Mystic and can be reached at 860-536-5059.

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