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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Rock River Artists welcome three new area artists

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3 TEXT BODY:

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4 Rock River Artists (RRA), a collection of fine artists and
5 craftspeople whose studios span Brookline to South Newfane,
6 have welcomed three new area artists into the fold: Ed Jekot,
7 painter and sculptor; Nancy Libby, painter; Noelle VanHendrick
8 and Eric Hendrick, clay artists of ZPOTS.

9 They join eight other artists on the 2026 studio tour:
10 Brittany Bills-Coleman, painting; Chris Darrow, clay; Richard
11 Foye, raku pottery; Gayle Robertson, painting; Gianna Robinson,

12 painting; Deidre Scherer, thread on fabric; Matthew Tell, pottery;
13 and T. Breeze Verdant, inlay jewelry.

14 Jekot, director of marketing at Mary Meyer in
15 Townshend, came to Vermont several years ago after listening to
16 a podcast featuring an old friend and fellow Rhode Island School
17 of Design alumni, Adrianna Alty, with historian and writer, Jill
18 Lepore.

19 In his studio at the back of his small art space, Gallery
20 1330, in Newfane, Jekot has been working lately in three-
21 dimensional modes. What he plans to show most on the RRA
22 tour, though, will be encaustic paintings, a method that involves
23 wax, resin, and pigment.

24 While his work will be front and center during the RRA
25 2026 tour, the walls of his little gallery will be filled with
26 submissions to what he calls a “teeny art show” featuring works
27 from within the region.

28 Nancy Libby has been painting since high school. Of the
29 various pieces in her studio in process, she says, “I’m always
30 working on more than one thing at a time, often three or four
31 things. I spend a lot of time alone creating, and so you live in this
32 little bubble,” aiming to “stay true to what moves me and what I
33 find interesting.”

34 Noelle VanHendrick and Eric Hendrick join the tour after
35 having tried 20 years ago when the geographic reach did not
36 include Brookline, the home of ZPOTS.

37 In a busy, multi-annexed, yet moderately-sized studio,
38 the couple and a few others produce work to be marketed as the
39 25-year-old ZPOTS through 100 galleries across 50 states and
40 abroad. They’re regulars, too, at both trade and retail shows up
41 and down the East Coast.

42 The two and one other throw the pots; another tends to
43 the flatware, and all tend to next steps before Noelle Van
44 Hendrick writes and paints on each piece before it goes to
45 glazing.

46 New and existing members are gearing up for Rock River
47 Artists annual Open Studio Tour, starting at the South Newfane
48 Schoolhouse, Saturday and Sunday, July 18 and 19, from 11 a.m.
49 to 5 p.m. For more information: rockriverartists.com.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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