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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Explore Watchung Reservation with Artist's Eyes

Summit, NJ (June 7, 2017) – On Saturday, June 10, the artist Matthew Jensen will lead a group on a walk through the Watchung Reservation. Jensen spent several months investigating four historic northern NJ parks, and his resulting site-specific artwork, the multimedia exhibition *Park Wonder*, is currently on display in the main gallery of the Art Center. This is the second of three artist-led walks he has planned in conjunction with the exhibition. The final walk will be on June 17 along the Passaic River. The public is invited to join him.

Jensen has an uncanny ability to see things that others miss, and on these walks, he shares his skills for scouring the landscape for artifacts and stories. Each walk will be no more than two hours long, and are free, although limited to 30 participants. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome. To register for the walk, and to get details on where the group will meet up, sign up online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/artist-led-walk-with-matthew-jensen-at-watchung-reservation-tickets-34624938122> or contact Sarah Walko, Director of Education and Community Engagement via email at swalko@artcenternj.org. Spots are limited!

For walkers who wish to explore on their own time, Jensen has shared his maps on the *Park Wonder* web site, *Maps of the Imagination*, at <https://www.matthewjensenwalking.com/>. Walkers are encouraged to share their experiences and photos, and they will be added to the blog on the site, and become a part of the *Park Wonder* conversation.

“This dynamic exhibition emphasizes local community, history, culture and nature,” said Walko. “It demonstrates how art has the power to create incredibly diverse experiences and conversations and extends far beyond the walls of museums.”

Park Wonder is made possible by a prestigious "Imagine Your Parks" grant award, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Service to support projects that use the arts to engage people with memorable places and landscapes of the National Park System.

About the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey

For more than 80 years, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey has been dedicated to viewing, making and learning about contemporary art. Recognized as a leading non-profit arts organization and accredited by the American Alliance for Museums, the Art Center's renowned studio school, acclaimed exhibitions, and educational outreach initiatives serve thousands of youth, families, seniors and people with special needs every year.

Support

Major support for the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey is provided by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Walter V. and Judith L. Shipley Family Foundation, the Wilf Family Foundations and Art Center members and donors.



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Artist Matthew Jensen Leads a Group Walk, Photo courtesy of Matthew Jensen