

# Three unexpected shows at SPA

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STEFAN HARD / STAFF PHOTO



*In the foreground is Burlington artist Diane Gabriel's "Hair Suit/Hirsut" in teabags, hair, interfacing, thread, and clay from 2013. On the wall is Brandon artist Joan Curtis' "Beginnings and Endings" from 2015 in fabric, paper mache, mixed media, acrylic on metal and wood support.*

Studio Place Arts (SPA) in Barre opened its doors Tuesday to three new exhibits. There will be a public reception from 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, March 18.

In the new show "Under Construction," curators Mark Waskow and Sue Higby, SPA's director, made selections based on the core principle behind construction artwork: The joining of two or more dissimilar media to create a finished artwork is such that one plus one equals more than two.

The SPA main floor gallery showcases more than 35 works, including a sculpture by Diane Gabriel, of Burlington, made from repurposed tea bags, clay and human hair; an elongated artwork for the wall by Aaron Stein, of Burlington, made from a rusty muffler, vintage toys and an old license plate; and an artist book by Tom Batey, of Chelsea, made from wood and a variety of different metals struck with a ball-peen hammer.

You are not alone if you feel lost without your cellphone. The exhibit “#nomophobia” by James Secor confronts the anxiety that many feel when separated from their cellphones. According to Secor, recently profiled by Vermont Art Guide as the “Artist to Watch,” his show examines how peoples’ attachment to various screens and mobile devices affects how they interact in the outside world. His second-floor gallery show includes 30 small paintings and 52 pencil-drawn selfies, the size of a cell- phone.

The third-floor exhibit, “Station to Station,” with artwork by Art2D2 Industries and Babelon Williams, feels like you are walking into a comic book. The 35 paintings make use of apophenia (perceiving patterns or connections in meaningless data), as well as material found in the human periphery, acrylic paint, antique text, childhood books, film stills, and random materials from our youth.

*Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; noon to 4 p.m. Saturday (noon to 4 p.m. March 28-29); call 802-479-7069, or go online to [www.studioplacearts.com](http://www.studioplacearts.com). SPA is located at 201 N. Main St.*