

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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IMPACT OF LOCALITY ON ARTISTIC EXPRESSION HIGHLIGHTS FEB. 14 SDHC FREE PUBLIC PROGRAM

FEB. 2, 2018 -- "Oh, the places we go", a look at how different localities infuse different flavors into their art scenes, will highlight Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's first free monthly program of 2018 on Wednesday, February 14, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Old School House, 130 Center Street, Douglas. Public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

Presenter Michael Burmeister, owner of Button Gallery at 33-35 Center St in downtown Douglas, will draw upon his personal journey from gaining his Master of Fine Arts at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, to teaching positions at five colleges in Illinois and Pennsylvania, then to preparing exhibitions at four museums in the Chicago/Evanston environs before coming here, revealing how each ambient has taught him different things about navigating a career within the arts. He also will share the ideas his experiences have generated for building upon West Michigan's Art Coast reputation.

Burmeister acquired and relocated Button Gallery in 2015 when previous owner Arthur Frederick retired, ending his 30-plus years of Gallery operation in an English garden setting on West Center Street, "a stone's throw" from Lake Michigan.

Representing artists recognized on both the regional and national levels, the Gallery describes itself as "an eclectic mix of artistic voices and expressions, striving to create an environment of welcomed openness, dialogue and thoughtful visual enjoyment."

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's free monthly program series presents entertaining and informative insights into local history and community life. This month's program is sponsored by Button Gallery.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or its activities planned for 2017, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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Among artwork images illustrating SDHC's Feb. 14 program is this button-covered artwork by Chicago artist Nick Cave titled "Speak Louder", part of the last exhibition presenter Mike Burmeister worked on for Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art...an ironically prescient catalyst for Burmeister's migration to Fennville and taking over a gallery named Button.