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August 16, 2024

3S Artspace
319 Vaughan Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Friends,

Thank you to the 3S Artspace for inviting me to this evening's exhibit opening. While I regret not being able to attend in person, I thank all those involved who made this opening a success. Since 3S Artspace first opened its doors in 2015, it has established itself as a cornerstone of the contemporary art scene on the Seacoast. Rooted at the core of the 3S's philosophy is a commitment to championing a diversity of voices and perspectives, which help break down social barriers and establish meaningful connections between community members.

Tonight's exhibit from Maine artist Peter Bruun is a testament to the importance that art can play in changing perspectives. Titled "Each Has Their Grief", Mr. Bruun's works serve as a reminder of the human toll of the opioid epidemic and the road to recovery for those who have lost a loved one or are struggling with addiction themselves. Meant to serve as a beacon of light in dark times, works like Mr. Bruun's help destigmatize those suffering from mental health and substance issues while challenging preconceived notions surrounding addiction.

The importance of art in how we frame the most difficult subjects of our time cannot be understated, and exhibits like this will continue to drive the conversation forward about how we can best care for those struggling with addiction or mental health issues. I thank Mr. Bruun for his incredible bravery in the face of overwhelming grief to turn his experience into something beautiful and educational, and I hope that it leaves a lasting impact on all in attendance this evening. Thank you again to the 3S Artspace and its staff for their tremendous work, and I look forward to seeing the next generation of artists emerge from the Seacoast in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Pappas".

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress