

PRESS RELEASE

YV Art Museum
administered under CAI

Features
sculpture by James D. Cennamo

For Immediate Release: October 1, 2025

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Acton, MA – YV Art Museum, also known as Contemporary Arts International (CAI), is proud to present a solo exhibition of sculpture entitled “Shadow Work” by James D. Cennamo in the Downstairs Gallery. The Exhibition will run from October 5, 2025 through January 25, 2026; an Opening Reception will be held on October 12, Sunday, at 2:00 PM.



Exhibition: SHADOW WORK by Cennamo

This exhibition features 83 pieces from *SHADOW WORK*, a miniature sculpture series that revisits unforgettable events and social commentaries—both good and bad, heroic and tragic, celebrated and infamous—that have shaped society from the 1960s to today. Though the sculptures are tiny in size, the stories they tell are monumental.

Seen through Cennamo’s lens, these moments are infused with humor—often dark—and rendered in bright, bold colors. Each figurine is sculpted by hand from clay, baked in the artist's own oven, and painted vividly and colorful. The figures, though seemingly flimsy and innocent, are strikingly alive. When displayed together, these small works form a striking visual timeline—like a history book laid wide open on the wall. Some pieces capture moments of joy, others evoke sorrow; all reflect the stories that have been told and retold among friends and families, both in private and public spheres.

About the Artist

Cennamo grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where he began his creative journey as a cartoonist. After moving to Nantucket in the 1980s, he served as an editorial cartoonist for two local newspapers from 1989 to 2010, receiving awards from both the National Newspaper Association and the New England Press Association in 1992.

Beyond visual art, Cennamo has appeared in numerous stage productions with the Theatre Workshop of Nantucket and performed as a stand-up comedian. A musician as well, he founded the Transcendental Band Govinda Sky. In 2021 he moved to Salem MA and he joined the *Salem Art Association* where he received two honorable mentions for his artwork and held his first solo show *SMALL WORLDS in 2025*. In 2023, he published his graphic memoir, *River Of Consciousness*.

The Origin of the Shadow Boxes

The idea for the shadow boxes emerged by chance. While browsing an art supply store, Cennamo stumbled upon a shelf of unpainted wooden boxes in various sizes. Inspired, he brought some home to experiment with collages. Unsatisfied with the results, he felt the boxes needed more—something original. Found objects and doll parts felt too derivative. So he bought some clay and began sculpting his own figures and objects.

The resulting shadow boxes reflect Cennamo's love of history, music, and the spiritual macabre. They're rich with nostalgia—featuring everything from 1960s rock bands to hippie culture and psychedelia.

Visit the Exhibition

Location: YV Art Museum Gallery

Hours: Open daily, 10 AM – 6 PM (winter hour: 10am - 4pm)

Admission: \$15 adult | \$10 seniors (65+) and children (under 14)

Appointments: Call 617-699-6401

YV Art Museum grounds are open to the public every day 10am to 6pm. Call 617-699-6401 before arriving to schedule your visit. Admission is \$15/adult, \$10/over 65 & under 14

YV Art Museum, also known as Contemporary Arts International (CAI), is a non-profit, 501c3 tax-exempt organization located in a beautiful 10-acre art grounds in Acton MA. Our mission is to promote the creation, understanding and appreciation of contemporary arts in the global context through art education, residency, exhibition and symposium. For more information, visit www.contemporaryartsinternational.org or yvartmuseum.org

Contemporary Arts International (CAI)

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