



VOICES TO BE HEARD

David Byrd: VOICES, a special evening exploring the life and work of Delaware County artist David Byrd, will take place April 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Morris Conference Center (Craven Lounge) on the SUCO campus, presented by David Byrd: VOICES, SUNY Oneonta, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Otsego County, and SUCO students working to establish NAMI on campus.

“VOICES” is a free event combining elements of theater, dance, visual art, and mental health advocacy. The multimedia performance is a collaboration among area artists, the community, and students. Musician Michael Suchorsky who has toured and recorded with artists such as Lou Reed, Soldier String Quartet, trumpeter Don Cherry and French rock legend Jacques Higelin, will provide an original soundscape for the evening. Choreography by long time dancer and performance artist Colleen Blacklock

David Byrd was a painter and recluse who lived near Sidney Center NY from 1988 until his death in 2013. For thirty years, he worked as an orderly in a V.A. psychiatric hospital. This experience inspired him to create hundreds of paintings, drawings and a book, *Montrose V.A. Hospital 1958-88*. Through word and image, David offers an honest and rare glimpse into the human experience of mental illness. His work has been exhibited across the country and at SUCO’s Martin Mullen Gallery in 2013.

David Byrd: VOICES works to preserve David’s legacy and organize events that provoke, challenge and explore perceptions of mental illness. The April 21st presentation will support mental health awareness in the community, as well as SUCO students establishing a student run

advocacy group on campus. NAMI student members hope to connect with their peers, educate and advocate through campus events and address issues of stigma that make it hard for young people to talk about mental health concerns.

Please join us for a fascinating and engaging look at the life and art of David Byrd. An open discussion will follow the performance. All are welcome! For more information about VOICES contact davidbyrdvoices@gmail.com or call Jessica Farrell at [607-369-4916](tel:607-369-4916). (Please note: after 6 p.m., you may park without a permit on the SUCO campus.)

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<http://franklinlocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/nfr28.pdf>