

EVERHART MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE & ART

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For Immediate Release

Press Photographs are Available Upon Request

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New Student Exhibit Focused on Fantasy Tools Opens September 26, 2008 at Scranton's Everhart Museum

Scranton – August 18, 2008: Complementing the Everhart Museum's fall exhibit, *Tools in Motion: Work from the Hechinger Collection*, the Gallery One exhibition, *Fantasy Tools: Student Art at the Everhart*, highlights the work of area students who created artworks inspired by their perfect fantasy tool. Through these collaborative efforts, the Everhart nurtures creativity and showcases artistic excellence in the community. The schools involved in this exhibition include: Abington Heights Middle School and High School, Scranton High School, Audubon Elementary School, Prescott Elementary School, and Mountain View Elementary School. *Fantasy Tools* is on display in the Everhart Museum's Gallery One September 26 through December 31, 2008.

The 27 student artists represented in the exhibit range in grades from kindergarten to seniors in high school. When asked about the inspiration for the Gallery One exhibit, Everhart Curator, Nezka Pfeifer said she "believed that children could be really inventive in creating tools from their perspective, and hoped for a commentary on the kinds of things they think are important. They envisioned fantastical tools to help them get up for school in the morning, as well as to help them with their chores." Using drawings, mixed media, collage and paintings, the student artists participated in a juried exhibit with Everhart curatorial staff to create tools that they wish were available for their everyday use, including tools to help them walk their dogs, make breakfast, choose their outfits, mow the lawn, and help them with their homework. Some student artists also fused their inventions with creatures that inspired their design.

Fantasy Tools: Student Art at the Everhart complements the exhibit *Tools in Motion* which represents an extraordinary selection of artworks celebrating repetition and motion in common, everyday tools and hardware. This exhibition features over 50 highlights from the collection of Washington, DC hardware-industry pioneer John Hechinger. The exhibit content sparks the imagination and prompts a deeper engagement with each work's possible meaning, as the viewer reconsiders the ordinary as extraordinary. The artworks in *Tools in Motion* are diverse and range in material from wood, paper, metal, stone, and video. This family-friendly exhibition features the work of artists such as Arman, Jim Dine, Ron English, Gints Grinbergs, Claes Oldenburg, and Ivan Chermayeff and many more. *Tools in Motion* is on loan from International Arts & Artists (IA&A) and is on display at the Everhart Museum September 26 through December 22, 2008.

The Everhart Museum is open: noon-4:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Monday; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday; and noon-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/students & seniors, \$2/children 6-12, and free to Everhart Museum members. For more information, contact the museum at 570-346-7186 or email general.information@everhart-museum.org.

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About the Everhart Museum: Founded in 1908, the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art is the largest general museum in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Everhart Museum, located in Nay Aug Park in Scranton, is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to the collection, care and display of a diverse array of artifacts, including natural history, science and fine arts. Through our exhibits and programs, the Everhart Museum has become an invaluable regional resource for educational and cultural opportunities. General support for the museum is received from the Lackawanna County Office of Education & Culture, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the City of Scranton. For more information on the museum visit our website at www.everhart-museum.org or contact us at 570-346-7186.