

EVERHART MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE & ART

1901 Mulberry Street, Scranton, PA 18510

[tel] 570-346-7186 [fax] 570-346-0652 [web] www.everhart-museum.org

For Immediate Release

Press Photographs are Available Upon Request

Contact: Lauren White at 570-346-7186 or public.relations@everhart-museum.org

The Everhart Museum Opens New Studio Art Quilt Exhibit

Scranton – March 9, 2009: The Everhart Museum will open *Transformations 2008: Icons & Imagery* on May 7, 2009. This traveling exhibition, on loan from Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA), has toured internationally and will be on display at the Everhart through July 27, 2009. Curated by Jeannette DeNicolis Meyer, the exhibit includes work by 32 artists from nine countries.

Studio art quilts explore and express aesthetic concerns common to the whole range of visual arts -- painting, printmaking, photography, graphic design, assemblage and sculpture. Yet these contemporary fabric constructions retain, whether through materials or technique, a clear relationship to the folk art quilt from which it descends.

Each of the artist members of Studio Art Quilt Associates represented in *Transformations 2008: Icons & Imagery* used the idea of an icon, with its ability to elicit symbolic meaning beyond the object represented, as a starting point for the quilts in this exhibit. German textile expert Rudolf Smend, who served as the sole juror of this exhibit, selected work he felt "focused primarily on artistic originality, perfect craftsmanship and innovation," while providing a new take on the meaning of iconography through the use of fresh imagery and interpretations. The artists work chosen for the exhibit feature a diverse range of imagery, all of which use what are iconic pieces, including Byzantine icons themselves, symbols from ancient world cultures, the American landscape, feminine pop culture "icons," and cultural motifs taken from oft reproduced media imagery. The quilts included in this exhibit feature diverse styles of textile and fiber arts, reflecting time-honored quilting, sewing, and embroidery techniques as well as less traditional techniques such as printing, photography, collage and inclusion of found objects in and on the quilts.

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.

About the Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA): In 1990, a group of fiber artists formed SAQA in order to promote art quilts to museums and galleries; educate the public about art quilting; serve as a forum for the professional development of quilt artists; and provide a resource for curators, collectors, and teachers. Today SAQA works to document art quilts and provide a registry for art quilts in public places, as well as create and tour art quilt exhibitions. They seek to broaden the public awareness of art quilts and serve as a resource for fiber artists throughout the world. For more information visit the website www.saqa.com.