

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

Scranton's Everhart Museum Gears Up for Tool-Themed Exhibition Opening September 26, 2008

Scranton – August 8, 2008: The Everhart Museum will open *Tools in Motion: Work from the Hechinger Collection* on September 26, 2008. The traveling exhibition, on loan from International Arts & Artists (IA&A), Washington, DC features more than 50 highlights from the collection of Washington, DC hardware-industry pioneer John Hechinger. This popular, family-friendly exhibition displays the amazing variety of 20th-century art that represents or incorporates tools and hardware.

Tools in Motion includes sculptures, photographs, and paintings by such artists as Arman, Ivan Chermayeff, Jim Dine, Ron English, Gints Grinbergs, Claes Oldenburg, and Jacob Lawrence and celebrates the ubiquity of tools in our lives with art that transforms utilitarian objects into fanciful works of beauty, surprise and wit. The exhibit will be on view at the Everhart Museum September 26 through December 22, 2008.

The ordinary becomes extraordinary in *Tools in Motion* as everyday objects take on a new life through transformation by the artist. A wide range of styles and themes make up the exhibit which honors the dignity of everyday tools. The works were selected from a collection originally owned and collected by the late hardware-industry pioneer, John Hechinger (1920-2004), whose father started the Hechinger hardware chain in 1911. Hechinger began collecting art that highlighted the family business in 1978 in order to decorate the company's "sterile" headquarters. Hechinger explained, "The building seemed to rebuke the fantasies that a hardware store inspires. For anyone whose passion is work with his or her own hands, a good hardware store is a spur to the imagination and a source of irresistible delights." It was only fitting that the collection that would decorate the headquarters reflect that passion and creativity. At one time there were 118 locations of Hechinger home improvement stores throughout the East and Midwest. By the 1990's Hechinger had collected more than 375 unique pieces of art which decorated the Hechinger Company until 1998 when they left their home to become part of a popular ongoing series at the National Building Museum in Washington DC. Today, a portion of the collection travels as "*Tools in Motion: Works from the Hechinger Collection.*"

Complementing *Tools in Motion* is the Gallery One exhibition, *Student Art at the Everhart: Fantasy Tools*, which highlights the work of area students who created artworks inspired by their perfect fantasy tool. 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. Gallery One exhibitions are collaborative efforts by which the Everhart Museum nurtures creativity and showcases artistic excellence in the community.

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 International Arts & Artists: IA&A is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, arts institutions, and the public. Founded in 1995, IA&A is using innovative approaches to respond to the needs of the international arts community.