

EVERHART MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE & ART

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For Immediate Release

Press Photographs are Available Upon Request

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The Everhart Museum Opens LEGO® Sculpture Exhibit

Scranton – January 11, 2010: Have you ever wondered what you could build with thousands of LEGO® bricks? Visit the Everhart Museum beginning February 5, 2010 to find out when it opens its new temporary exhibit, *The Art of the Brick*®. This traveling exhibition, on loan from artist Nathan Sawaya, will be on display at the Everhart through May 2, 2010. Financial assistance for bringing this exhibit to the Everhart is provided by Gertrude Hawk Chocolates, Inc., Penn Security Bank & Trust Co. and The Oppenheim Family.

The Art of the Brick® is the first major museum exhibition in the United States to focus exclusively on the use of the popular LEGO building block as an art medium and New York-based lawyer turned artist Nathan Sawaya takes it to new heights. The exhibit features 29 works created solely from standard LEGO bricks over the period 2002-2007 with several new ones created specifically for this exhibit. Nearly one million colorful LEGO pieces which have been transformed into whimsical and awe-inspiring images will be on display.

Sawaya's ability to transform this common toy into something meaningful, his devotion to spatial perfection and the way he conceptualizes action, enables him to elevate what almost every child has played with into the status of art. "These works are very personal to me, since they reflect my growth as an artist as I strove to discover my creative identity," said Sawaya. "The museum exhibit is accessible because it engages the child in all of us while simultaneously illuminating sophisticated and complex concepts." Sawaya explains, "On and off, I intentionally inter-mix subject matter that is steeped in heavy sentiment with the lighthearted and whimsical. The purpose of this is two-fold. I realize families and children are drawn to my art because of the unique medium in which it was created and I welcome that. But it is also a necessary break for me to create whimsy in addition to the construction of the complex human forms. I want to provide a break for the viewer's eye, as well as a respite for my brain."

Artist Nathan Sawaya has been featured on multiple media outlets including "The Today Show," "Late Night with David Letterman," "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," "ESPN's Cold Pizza," and "The Colbert Report." His works are on display in major museums across the country. Additionally, Sawaya builds commissioned custom pieces, such as his recent work for Donald Trump's new hotel in Dubai. For more information on Sawaya and his exhibition, visit www.brickartist.com.

The Art of the Brick marks the opening of the Everhart Museum's 2010 exhibit calendar and while on view, will be thematically complemented by the Gallery One exhibition, *Brick Creations: Student Art at the Everhart*, and *Isaiah's Corner: Build It!*, in the Interactive Children's Gallery. *Brick Creations* highlights the work of area students who were invited to create artworks inspired by real or imaginary LEGO creations. The schools involved in this exhibition include: Blue Ridge Elementary School, Howard Gardner School of Discovery, Lakeside Elementary School, Mid Valley Secondary School, Montrose Area High School, Mountain View Elementary School, and Stourbridge Primary Center.

Isaiah's Corner: Build It! provides a place where children can build fantastic and creative "art-chitecture" inspired by **The Art of the Brick** exhibition which will appeal to all ages and demonstrates that creativity, as well as artistic expression, has no bounds!

Closed during the month of January, the Everhart Museum will reopen on February 1, 2010 on the following schedule: Monday, Thursday, & Friday, Noon-4:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; and Sunday, Noon-5:00 pm. 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.