



THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW EXPERIENCENTER EXHIBITION TEACHES ABOUT ART MADE FROM FOUND OBJECTS AND RECLAIMED MATERIALS

Trash? Look Again Opens April 30 at The Dayton Art Institute

(DAYTON, OHIO) – April 20, 2011 – As the world celebrates Earth Day, The Dayton Art Institute is preparing a new exhibition for the Experiencenter, its gallery for children and families, which invites visitors to look at the materials they so readily throw into the trash and see new ways to use these seemingly useless items.

Opening Saturday, April 30, the exhibition *TRASH? LOOK AGAIN* focuses on art created from found objects and reclaimed materials.

Trash is an inevitable part of human existence – it has been around forever. But with an ever-increasing focus on our environment and a sincere concern for the health of our planet, artists have embraced trash as a material for making art and as a way to bring attention to the ecological issues created by trash.

TRASH? LOOK AGAIN offers visitors the opportunity to learn how artists take discarded materials and place them in a new context to make a visual statement. In addition to selected pieces from the museum's permanent collection, work by two nationally recognized artists, Michelle Stitzlein and Linda Pace, will be on view. Both artists are known for their artworks made from reclaimed materials.

Teams of 4th – 6th grade students from six Dayton area schools partnered with The Dayton Art Institute in the development of the exhibition. Partner schools included: Miamisburg's Neff Middle School and five Dayton Public Schools: World of Wonder PreK-8 School at Residence Park, E. J. Brown PreK-8 School, Ruskin PreK-8 School, Patterson-Kennedy PreK-8 School, and Horace Mann PreK-8 School.

In January, the teams participated in workshops facilitated by Michelle Stitzlein. Each team learned the basic techniques Stitzlein uses to create sculptural installations from recycled materials. The teams returned to their schools to recruit and teach fellow students what they learned. Students from each school then applied the newly learned techniques to the creation of a larger artwork that will be on view as part of the exhibition.

The exhibition also contains several hands-on activities that allow visitors to explore art and its relationship to conserving the earth's resources. Visitors can add their creative ideas to a two-dimensional wall installation made from recycled bottle caps or learn how to make art at home from the "trash" in their recycle bins. Interactive games will challenge children and families to think creatively about how they can be better stewards of the environment and create less trash in the first place. A reading area provides books on recycling and reclaiming trash from both science and art perspectives. Additional gallery activities and hunts invite further exploration of art objects in The Dayton Art Institute's permanent collection.

In conjunction with *TRASH? LOOK AGAIN*, some of the activities in *The Art Place for Young Learners*, which opened last year as a permanent addition to the *Experiencenter*, will echo concepts found in the new exhibition, including puppets and costumes that use recycled and reclaimed materials. Reading and picture books will focus on the importance of taking care of the earth's resources.

TRASH? LOOK AGAIN opens to the public on Saturday, April 30, at 10:00 a.m. and will be on view in the Experiencenter through April 2012. The Experiencenter, the museum's interactive gallery for children and families, is open to the public during regular museum hours. It is located on the museum's lower level, directly below the General Motors Entrance Rotunda.

The Experiencenter is supported in part by **The Frank M. Tait Foundation, PNC, the Rotary Club of Dayton, the Harry S. Price, Jr. Family Fund, and LexisNexis.**

For more information about the Experiencenter and other programs at The Dayton Art Institute, please visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-5277. Be sure to also visit The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook ([facebook.com/daytonartinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/daytonartinstitute)) and Twitter (twitter.com/daytonart) for additional information and exclusive offers.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

As one of the Miami Valley's premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. The galleries and Museum Store are open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursday until 8 p.m. Suggested admission to the museum's permanent collection is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors, students (18+) and groups, free for museum members and youth under 17. Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum's permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. CAFÉ MONET by Elegant Fare serves lunch Wednesday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 2:30 p.m. For more information, please call 937-223-4278 or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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