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CREATIVE REUSE SHOWCASE WINNERS ON DISPLAY AT FROG HOLLOW

What does a tree made out of vacuum cleaner hoses, a hawk sculpture made from silverware, and a flower wall hanging made from a bike rim all have in common? Several things: They are all art objects made out of materials that some consider trash, they are all made by Chittenden County high school students, and they are three of the eight winners at CSWD's 12th annual Creative ReUse Showcase. That's right, these objects, along with over 50 other art pieces from the showcase, are on display from February 1 through February 20, 2008 at Frog Hollow Gallery (85 Church Street, Burlington, 863-6458). On February 20, the Creative ReUse showcase closing ceremony will be held at Frog Hollow. This awards bash is open to the public, and serves as the culminating event where this year's winners will be awarded prizes from local sponsors.

The Chittenden Solid Waste District received a record 100 entries from eight Chittenden County high schools. 56 of the entries went on to be displayed at Frog Hollow beginning February 1 through February 20. During this year's Showcase students vied for seven awards by taking materials otherwise bound for the landfill and turning them into art objects.

"Making my project made me realize how easy it is to bring new life to materials people often define as trash," said one of this year's art entrants, Ellen Gayclos, an eleventh grader from Essex High School. "I realized there are so many other items that I would like to see reused or recycled in the future, especially as education and technology increases. I believe it is a very important step in helping to preserve our environment."

"The Showcase is a wonderful community event", said Rob Hunter, the gallery manager of Frog Hollow. "It involves and encourages teachers, students, and local artists to educate the public on environmental issues such as reducing waste. Since the Showcase's inception 12 years ago we have been involved, and we look forward to every year when we can serve as the home base for the Showcase display."

Don't miss the Awards Bash at Frog Hollow, 85 Church Street, Burlington, Wednesday February 20, 5-7 p.m., where awards will be presented. This event is open to the public. Come to Frog Hollow from now through the 20th to check out the art and to cast your vote for People's Choice Award.

Award winners are:

Awesome Art (sponsored by Boutlier's Art Center): "Lotus Wheel," a wall hanging made from a bike rim, shampoo and laundry detergent bottles, by Sylvanna Lane, Grade 12, Essex High School

Honorable mention: “Transformations,” an awe-inspiring wall hanging made from vibrant mixed media, by Emma Dwyer, Grade 11, Essex High School

Fabulous Fashion (sponsored by Ecco Clothes): “Pretty in Pink,” a dress made out of newspapers and painted pink, Tamara Lessor, Grade 11, Burlington High School

Honorable mention: “Made in China,” a dress fashioned from wallpaper, by Alexandra Smith, Grade 12, Burlington High School

Garden Art (co-sponsored by Gardener’s Supply and Intervale Compost): “Vincent’s Bird Cage,” an outdoor sculpture fashioned out of wire baskets, burnt out light bulbs and salvaged wood pieces, by Kyllie Dally, Grade 11, Essex High School

Honorable mention: “Clock Bird Feeder,” a bird feeder made out of old clocks left over from a school reconstruction project, by Derek Lautenschlager, Grade 12, Mt. Mansfield Union High School

Outrageously Original (sponsored by Burlington City Arts): “Seeing the Forest for the Trees,” a tree sculpture made out of vacuum hosing, by Loren Fulton, Grade 12, Essex High School

Honorable mention: “Indoctrination at Infancy,” a sculpture reflecting the influence of religion on children made out of old toys and books, by Austin Scrivens, Grade 12, Rock Point High School

Perfectly Practical (sponsored by Outdoor Gear Exchange): “Compute Dance Bag,” a bike messenger bag made out of the Dance, Dance, Revolution game, by Sasha Turner, Grade 12, Essex High School.

Honorable mention: “The Gnar Mt. Shredding Ski,” a new take on the sport of skiing made out of old skis and a bike, by Mike Shaw and Galen Hagen-Peter, Grade 12, Mt. Mansfield Union High School

Stunning Sculpture (sponsored by Artists’ Mediums): “Iron Hawk,” a sculpture made out of silverware, by Chris Hemphill, Grade 11, Essex High School.

Honorable mention: “Morphius,” a paper mache sculpture inspired by a character from the movie, *The Village*, by Allan Dunn, Grade 12, Champlain Valley Union High School

Global Warming Awareness Grand Prize (sponsored by NRG Systems): “Gambling with our Future,” a wall hanging depicting the threat of climate change on the world and the environment, by Kyle McDevitt and Lucas Campbell, Grade 12, Mt. Mansfield Union High School

Honorable Mention: “Pop Clock,” a wall hanging made from old clock pieces used to depict the increase in population of the world every 2.4 seconds, by Christoph Bornemann and Tom Beaudoin, Grade 12, Mt. Mansfield Union High School

People's Choice Award (sponsored by Frog Hollow): votes for this award are being gathered through February 20, when the winner will be announced that evening at the Awards Bash at Frog Hollow, 5-7 p.m.