



Canton Museum of Art

• News Release •

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 2, 2012

Folk Art Showcases “Creative Spirit”

The charm of folk art and outsider art is irresistible. Self-taught artists were moved by their own “creative spirit” and followed their impulses to express deeply felt emotions and ideas. Inspired by themes such as religion, politics and daily life, folk artists used simple, available materials -- and unrestrained creativity. *The Creative Spirit* exhibit, at the Canton Museum of Art May 17 through July 22, showcases the exuberance and diversity of the folk art genre, as seen through the vision of a collector.

The Creative Spirit exhibit is assembled from the collection of Mark Chepp, Director of the Springfield Museum of Art from 1991 through 2006. More than 260 pieces will be on display, including ceramics, furniture, paintings, quilts and carvings. Within the collection are sub-collections of canes, prison art, religious art, bottle cap men, and face jugs.

“These are objects that have spoken to me,” says Chepp. “Some of the artists have signed their work, some are well known, but much of this work is anonymous -- the maker was moved by his or her own creative spirit and did not see the importance of signing the piece.”

According to curator, Lynnda Arrasmith, “the *Creative Spirit* displays the knowledge, taste and boundless enthusiasm of a single collector, which defines this engaging exhibit.”

The Creative Spirit is sponsored by Ervin & Marie Wilkof Foundation, Mark & Beverly Belgya, Rachel Davis Fine Art and the Volunteer Angels.

Admission is \$6/adult, \$4/senior and student, children 12 and under are free. Canton Museum of Art members are free. A Members Opening Reception will be held on May 17, from 6 to 8 pm, with refreshments and a string trio of Canton Symphony musicians, (\$10 for public).

Museum Hours:

Monday – closed; Tuesday, Wednesday – 10 am – 8 pm; Thursday - Friday – 10 am – 5 pm
Saturday – 10 am – 3 pm; Sunday – 1 pm to 5 pm

The Canton Museum of Art is located at 1001 Market Avenue North in the Cultural Center for the Arts, Canton, Ohio 44702. www.cantonart.org Phone: 330-453-7666.

