



PULL KNOB, GET ART!



Art*o*mat® at Frost Art Museum, Miami, Florida

When someone thinks of vending machines, they typically visualize gumballs, cheap toys, snack foods, sodas and cigarettes. The Art*o*mat® project is designed to encourage people to think of art. Sculptures, paintings, photographs, collages, jewelry and other art forms are made to fit in small, cellophane covered cardboard boxes and dispensed via retired cigarette vending machines. After inserting money and pulling the knob, you walk away with an original work of art by one of 400 contributing artists from 10 countries.

Created in 1997, there are

71 active machines in museums and various locations throughout the United States. The Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art is the only host in Ohio to date.

The inspiration for Art*o*mat® came to artist Clark Whittington of Winston-Salem, NC as he was preparing for a solo art show at a local café. A friend glanced through his sketchbook and noticed a sketch of a vending machine and suggested he use it to vend his artwork. In June 1997 the first Art*o*mat® was installed with 12 of Whittington's paintings. (con't page 3)

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

In its second year, the state's largest history-related gathering, *Building Connections: Ohio's 2004 Conference on History, Preservation & Revitalization* was held November 4-6 in Columbus.

Nearly 700 people with an interest in the history of Ohio attended, including historical organizations, archivists and preservation advocates.

Featured speakers included James B. Gardner of the National Museum of American History; Thomas Hylton, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist; and U.S. Representative Ralph Regula, dean of Ohio's Congressional delegation and a senior member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The event was a collaboration of the Ohio Historical Society and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, with Downtown Ohio, Inc., Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Academy of History, Ohio Arts & Sports Facilities Commission, Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, Ohio Humanities Council, Ohio Preservation Alliance and the Society of Ohio Archivists.

For more information, contact the Ohio Historical Society at 614/297-2314 or 800/340-6131 or visit www.ohiohistory.org.

OAC SALUTES NEW MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE

The Ohio Arts Council congratulates these newly elected members of the Ohio General Assembly:

Louis Blessing, Jr. (R), 29th House District, Cincinnati
Danny Bubb (R), 88th House District, West Union
Timothy Cassell (D), 63rd House District, Madison
Gary Cates (R), 4th Senate District, West Chester
Patricia Clancy (R), 8th Senate District, Cincinnati
Bill Coley (R), 55th House District, West Chester
Matthew Dolan (R), 98th House District, Novelty
Lorraine Fende (D), 62nd House District, Willowick
Jennifer Garrison (D), 93rd House District, Marietta
Timothy Grendell (R), 18th Senate District, Chesterland
William Healy, II (D), 52nd House District, Canton
Ron Hood (R), 91st House District, Ashville
Randy Law (R), 64th House District, Warren
Mike Mitchell (D), 26th House District, Columbus
Tom Niehaus (R), 14th Senate District, New Richmond
Allan Sayre (D), 96th House District, Dover
Joseph Uecker (R), 66th House District, Loveland
Mark Wagoner (R), 46th House District, Toledo
Brian Williams (D), 41st House District, Akron
Charlie Wilson (D), 30th Senate District, St. Clairsville
Kenny Yuko (D), 33rd House District, Cincinnati



Robert Jones; Act I, Scene 1, Before the Curtain; set design for *Gloriana*

RIFFE GALLERY PRESENTS *DESIGN FOR THE AMERICAN STAGE*

Design for the American Stage: Treasures from the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute will be on view at the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery February 10 – April 17, 2005. Curated by Nena Couch of The Ohio State University Theatre Research Institute and Department of Theatre.

Drawn from the extensive design collection at The Ohio State University's Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute, this exhibition brings the magic of the stage to the art gallery.

The artworks for professional productions across North America represent a range of theatre design from renderings by the Armbruster Scenic Studio (1875-1958) based in Columbus to Raoul Pène Du Bois's Tony Award-winning set designs for the 1953 *Wonderful Town*. A three-dimensional model by Broadway designer Tony Straiges and a glorious painted dance floor by artist Caroline Beasley-Baker for the Bebe Miller Dance Company will be on view as well as designs for Kenley Players of Dayton, Contemporary American Theatre Company in Columbus and designs for the Metropolitan Opera, New York City.

The Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery showcases the work of Ohio's artists and curators, exhibitions produced by the Ohio Arts Council's International Program and the collections of the region's museums and galleries. The Riffe Gallery's Education Program seeks to increase public appreciation and understanding of those exhibitions.

The gallery is in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, State and High Streets, Columbus. Admission is free. For information, call the Riffe Gallery at 614/644-9624 or visit www.riffegallery.org.

WOSU STATIONS AND GCAC ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

The WOSU Stations and the Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC) have agreed to collaborate in a partnership designed to develop a greater appreciation of the cultural opportunities available in central Ohio. Broadcast and web programming will be created and distributed through the joint resources of WOSU and GCAC.

The project will employ three positions at WOSU.TV — two arts producers and a student intern — to create a cultural arts production team focusing primarily on producing programs in the areas of performance, documentary and community profiles. Some of the programs also may be aired on WOSU Radio and through the WOSU and GCAC websites.

"This innovative community partnership is a great opportunity for both WOSU and GCAC that will serve as a model for other public stations," remarked WOSU General Manager Tom Rieland. "We've formed a true collaboration with the common goal of bringing the rich cultural resources of Columbus to a broader audience through all of WOSU's media resources."

"GCAC and the central Ohio cultural community are excited about the opportunity to show the public our vibrant cultural life in a new way," says Ray Hanley, president of the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

The OAC's Riffe Gallery is among the participating arts organizations. The programming will allow the Riffe Gallery to increase community awareness of the gallery's exhibitions, programs and special events. "WOSU has always been an important community partner," said OAC executive director Wayne Lawson. "This project will help us reach new audiences and remind long-term patrons of the value and uniqueness of the Riffe Gallery and its diverse exhibitions. The collaboration will deepen the relationship of various members of the arts community and its supporters."

The WOSU Stations are community-supported, noncommercial public radio and television stations licensed to The Ohio State University. For more information about WOSU, visit www.wosu.org. The Greater Columbus Arts Council, a not-for-profit organization, encourages and supports cultural development in the Columbus area. To learn about GCAC, visit www.gcac.org.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"Attending the Artist Blacksmith's Association of North America (ABANA) conference boosted my artistic development considerably. As an artist in a 'big fish/small pond' setting, receiving international exposure was both educational and gratifying. I learned many techniques, saw many cleverly designed works and met so many talented people that my head is spinning and my workshop is humming. The plans, parts and ideas I acquired have already allowed me to finish projects that were in limbo for 10 years."

— Parkersburg blacksmith Theodore Banning
Ohio River Border Initiative (ORBI) grant recipient

OAC Deadlines & Panel Meetings

deadlines

JANUARY 18

- Arts Innovation
- Artists & Communities
Traditional Arts Apprenticeship
- Ohio Heritage Fellowships

FEBRUARY 1

- Sustainability
- Arts Learning – Artist in Residence (Sponsors)

MARCH 1

- Arts Learning – Arts Partnerships
- Arts Access

panel meetings

MARCH 2-3

- Arts Innovation

MARCH 8-9

- Artists & Communities

MARCH 15-16

- Traditional Arts Apprenticeship
- Ohio Heritage Fellowships

ART*O*MAT® (CON'T)

The machine sold Whittington's black and white photographs for \$1 each.

After the close of the show, the owner of the café requested that the machine remain there permanently where it stands to this day. Soon, other artists became involved as did its sponsoring organization, Artists in Cellophane (AIC). AIC is based on the concept of taking art and "repackaging" it to make it part of daily lives.

Art*o*mat® is a registered trademark of Artists in Cellophane. For more information about Art*o*mat® or to submit artwork, visit www.artomat.org.

NOTEWORTHY

Hickory Ridge artist **Emily Matusek's** quilted wall hanging won a First Place Award as the best piece of fiber artwork at the Appalachian Women's National Conference, sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council and Ohio University at Zanesville. A total of 78 pieces of art created by 53 Appalachian women were accepted into the competition by jurors.

Matusek retired after working 30 years as an elementary special education teacher and began exploring artmaking with a camera, sewing machine and large Swedish loom. A quilted wall hanging evolved into the unique and priceless *Family Treasure* measuring 56 inches wide by 78 inches tall.

WE'RE BUILDING OHIO THROUGH THE ARTS

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.



With support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

727 East Main Street
Columbus, Ohio 43205-1796

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