

February 14, 2008

Dear Highland Conservancy E-Friends:

Calling all artists and budding artists. This is your chance to recycle and be creative. The Huron Valley Council of the Arts is holding a special Recycled Art Exhibit in April. Read below and send in your artwork made from recycled art today. For complete details visit their website: www.huronvalleyarts.org

April 2008 Art from Refuse: Recycled Art



This exhibit is open to artists all over the U.S. using recycled, post-consumer items in their artwork. The exhibit will help educate the public about the after-life of garbage and cause us all to look at our garbage cans in a new way! There will be cash prizes and an artist-friendly entry fee of \$10. We will jury for family-friendliness and for sticking with the theme. This exhibit will tie in with the many Earth Day events happening in the Huron Valley and will feature the opening reception on Friday, April 4th from 7-9 p.m. with "green" refreshments and recycling-inspired music! Deadline for entries is March 1st so fill out the application today! Any questions please call 248-736-5491. For the application, [click here](#)

There is also an interesting article on other art and recycling ideas from the Highland Conservancy blog. Note especially what Lakeland High teacher Stephanie Crow is going to build with water bottles! To read the full article control-click on the title or go to: www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com

[Trash Solutions by Katheryn Krupa](#)



We humans throw out a massive amount of trash every day. Wouldn't it be better to Freecycle it, Recycle it or better yet, turn all that trash into art! Above is a sculpture made entirely from garbage called *Trashosaurus*. Currently, it is exhibited at The Garbage Museum in Stratford, Connecticut. If you are impressed, I hope you will consider trying your hand at it by entering the Recycled Art contest going on at the Huron Valley Council of the Arts. They are accepting entries until March 1st and the show will run through the month of April. Visit their website for details: www.huronvalleyarts.org

For a dedicated trash-picker such as myself, this kind of art is inspiring! For years, my sons and I (and any neighborhood kids who decided to tag along) have led true scavenger hunts. The night before trash pick-up, we hop on our bikes and scour the neighborhood for treasures. Our best finds have been bicycles, a perfectly good television and an English riding saddle. At work, my colleagues find it hilarious that I dig through wastebaskets to rescue markers, paper, half full glue bottles and pencils others have tossed out. One of my OCC college professors had me beat. He once recycled *all the trash* in his small neighborhood for a month! Faithfully, he drove up and down the streets gathering all of his neighbor's garbage. What he couldn't re-use or compost, he encased inside a concrete wall he was building for a garage. Wow!

Lakeland High teacher Stephanie Crow is even more ambitious. Her students plan to build an entire greenhouse made from recycled water bottles this spring! She is still accepting donations of clean water bottles for their project. You can email her at: CrowS@huronvalley.k12.mi.us

It is estimated the average American throws out a ton of trash every year. Most of that garbage ends up in landfills, leaching mercury and toxins into our environment. Before tossing out your egg cartons, Styrofoam, and packaging, consider donating to a local school or pass it on to your children to use in creating an artwork. My fourth and fifth

grade students often rush to finish their art lesson so they can dig around in my “Recycled Stuff” box, turning anything and everything into inventions and sculptures like robots and dragons. So let’s all do our part – you can always recycle trash for art!