

Montshire Museum Takes Flight With ‘Birds In Art’

By GARETH HENDERSON
Staff Reporter

NORWICH – The Montshire Museum of Science has unveiled an international “Birds in Art” exhibit as part of an effort to expand its offerings. It’s the second two-dimensional art showing the museum has displayed.

This diverse exhibit is on loan from the Woodson Art Museum in Wisconsin and includes paintings from 10 different countries including France, Italy, Australia and Japan. The Woodson exhibit has been shown throughout the country, and now 60 of the total 115 works are on display at the Montshire Museum.

Patrons will notice the diverse colors and styles throughout the exhibit, which includes several sculptures as well. The first work of art to greet the visitor is a striking sculpture of a bird standing on the back of a massive, partially submerged hippo. The majestic harpy eagle, guinea fowls, shoebills and penguins also make appearances in the array of paintings.

Montshire Museum Marketing and Communication Director Beth Krusi said, “Birds in Art” complements the museum’s other offerings, even though it isn’t a hands-on activity like the existing science exhibits. “We really feel that there is a wonderful blend of art and science in all our exhibits,” Krusi said. She added that “Birds in Art” provides something more for adults to enjoy.

Krusi said the Montshire Museum is a member of the Association of Science-Technology Centers. Through that alliance the museum can hear about a wide variety of exhibits and different ways to approach science, Krusi said.

One of the most interesting parts of “Birds in Art” exhibit also carries a sign of the times. It’s called “Corvus Deflatus,” by Canadian artist Karen Bondarchuk. She now resides in Michigan. Her sculpture shows a large, dead crow made of tire scraps Bondarchuk collected from the sides of Interstate 94 in Michigan.

Bondarchuk writes, “The ‘expired’ tire scraps reinforce the deathly prostration of this bird while also evoking the faltering automobile industry. As many families attempt to pick up the pieces of their lives after layoffs and plant closures, the roadside debris that I collect directly represents a bygone era of prosperity and livelihood in Michigan.”

“Birds in Art” isn’t the only event spicing up September at the Montshire. The museum on Tuesday, Sept. 15 will welcome the creators of “Radio Expeditions,” including NPR host Alex Chadwick. The event starts at 7 pm and reservations are required. NPR and National Geographic combined forces to start this radio series about science and exploration.

Also, the Montshire Museum will be closed from Sept. 26 to Sept. 30 in order to set up two dinosaur exhibits. Those exhibits will be open to the public on Oct. 1. For more information on upcoming events, call (802) 649-2200 or go to www.montshire.org.

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