



Erie Art Museum

Be moved.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2017, Erie, Pennsylvania – The Erie Art Museum is pleased to present a new McCain Family Gallery exhibition, *Tin Plated Dreams: Sculptures by William Brady, Jr.* The show will run from February 11, 2017 through January 7, 2018. An artist reception will be held on Friday, March 10 during Gallery Night.

As a young boy in the 1950's, Bill Brady's severe dyslexia was little understood. At home, he learned metalworking alongside his father, an accomplished blacksmith, but after the ninth grade, Bill was counseled to give up schooling, and dropped out to take a series of menial jobs. While living in New England, he supplemented his meager wages by producing tinware objects inspired by early American designs. Later, he began to create personal sculptures from the numerous drawings in his sketchbooks—renderings of planes, ice boats (including one he built), futuristic houses, dirigible barns, kite-driven sailboats, and hot air balloons.

In Maine, Brady bought a Navy surplus bus and turned it into a studio and sleeping loft, replacing the back end and part of the roof with sculptural skylights. In the early 1970s he drove to California, lived on a “bus commune,” and learned to fly ultra-light planes over the coastline. Still parked in the backyard since driving back to rural Pennsylvania in the 1980s, Bill sleeps under the stars and enjoys immersion in thunderstorms raging around the glass walls and ceiling just above his elevated bed.

Brady listens to books and periodicals on tape while he snips, hammers, and solders in his bus studio, fabricating sculptures from tin-plated steel sheets and welding rods. Curved elements are hammered into rounded halves and soldered together to evoke plants, animals, spaceships, earthly vehicles, animated three-dimensional doodles, Modernist abstractions, figures, cartoon characters, and more.

Images available at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BxujzczjBP4eUnJqUjh1eU1QeFE>

About the Erie Art Museum

The Erie Art Museum anchors downtown Erie's cultural and economic revitalization, occupying a group of restored mid-19th century commercial buildings and a modern, ‘Green,’ 10,500 square

foot expansion. The newly expanded Museum marks the first LEED-certified building in the region, soon to be complete with a planted rooftop.

The Museum maintains an ambitious program of changing exhibitions annually, embracing a wide range of subjects, both historical and contemporary and including folk art, contemporary craft, multi-disciplinary installations, community-based work, as well as traditional media.

The Erie Art Museum also holds a collection of over 8,000 objects, which includes significant works in American ceramics, Tibetan painting, Indian bronzes, contemporary baskets, and a variety of other categories.

The Museum offers a wide range of education programs and artists' services including interdisciplinary and interactive school tours and a wide variety of classes for the community. Performing arts are showcased in the 25-year-old Contemporary Music Series, which represents national and international performers of serious music with an emphasis on composer/performers, and a popular annual two-day Blues & Jazz Festival.

The Erie Art Museum, café, and gift shop is open Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. For additional visitor information, visit online at www.erieartmuseum.org or call 814-459-5477.

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