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NEWS RELEASE

2009 Art on the River Opening Celebration

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque, Iowa, announces the opening of the outdoor sculpture opening for the 2009-2010 Art on the River Exhibition. In its fourth year, the temporary public art exhibit drew 68 entries from 36 artists in 11 different states.

The 2009 Opening Celebration will be held on Wednesday, July 15, at 5:00 p.m. at the Grand River Center, 500 Bell Street. The public is invited to attend the event which will include a brief program and the opportunity to visit with the artists. The celebration will feature hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar..

The following pieces were chosen for this highly competitive exhibit through a blind judging process.

- *Kneeling Communication Tower* by Eric Troffkin of Detroit, Mich., presents a common commercial product in an unusual way.
- *Red Road Home* by Skip Willits of Camanche, Iowa, resembles river canoes.
- *Hooked* by Jason Messier of Iowa City, Iowa, recalls the excitement that comes from fishing for the big one.
- *City Mouse* by Andrew Arvanetes of North Richland Hills, Texas, is a whimsical stainless steel structure reminiscent of a child's wind-up toy.
- *Wedges II* by Matt Moyer of Columbia, Mo., is a welded steel sculpture that takes a humorous approach to rigid geometric forms.
- *Zig Zag Boogie Woogie* by Bill Wood of Fairfax, Va., is a series of six shiny pieces that look as if they are coming out of the ground.
- *Monolith Mantra V* by Bilhenry Walker of Milwaukee, Wis., is a powder coated aluminum and steel angular piece that changes when viewed from different directions.

(MORE)

- *Two Headed Trojan Ducky* by Rob Neilson of Appleton, Wis., is a light-hearted statement about American rivers and waterways.
- *You're So Vane* by John Martinson of Galena, Ill., is a sculpture of tools, machinery parts and other metal objects on the form of an old windmill tower.
- *River Objects* by Skip Willits of Camanche, Iowa, is constructed from found pieces of marine-grade Styrofoam that are scattered about from the floods.

Additionally, one sculpture from the 2008 Exhibit, *Purple Haze* by Jerry Cowger of Waterloo, Iowa, will remain in the exhibition for another year, on loan from the artist. *Purple Haze* is a tribute to the wonderful colors in a sunset.

Jurists for 2009 exhibit were: Jeff Boshart, MFA, a professor of art at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston where he teaches introductory through graduate level classes in sculpture; Delores Fortuna, MFA, an adjunct assistant professor of ceramics at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and, Douglas Schlesier, MFA, professor of art at Clarke College where he directs the Quigley Gallery and teaches sculpture, drawing, ceramics, airbrush painting, and new genre.

Art on the River is part of the Dubuque City Council's Arts and Culture initiative. Working in conjunction with the Arts and Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, the Dubuque Museum of Art and a volunteer committee made up of artists, educators and city staff, the City has identified highly visible locations at the Port of Dubuque to display selected artwork for a temporary exhibit that changes each year. The Port of Dubuque is a 90-acre riverfront campus which features the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Grand River Center conference center, Mississippi RiverWalk, Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark, Diamond Jo Casino, historic Dubuque Star Brewery, and Dubuque Shot Tower.

Featured artists receive a stipend for displaying their work for a year. All the pieces are for sale but must stay in the exhibit through June 2010. General and sales information about the exhibit and photos of the newly selected pieces are available online at www.cityofdubuque.org/artontheriver.

For additional information, please contact Jan Stoffel, arts and cultural affairs coordinator for the City of Dubuque, at 563-589-4110 or janstoff@cityofdubuque.org.