

ARTWALK

at Hartford Public Library

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Contact: Mary F. Crean

860-695-6360 / mcrean@hplct.org

Classic Cars Come to Life at Hartford Public Library

HARTFORD, CT (March 24, 2011) — Hartford Public Library announced today that Nancy Masters will debut her latest installation on the **ArtWalk** entitled ***Boys and their Toys***. The free exhibition opens Friday, April 8 with a reception from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and runs through May 22.

Boys and their Toys represents the realistic automotive oil paintings created by artist Nancy Masters. "They don't design cars the way they used to; and that's what excites me as a painter. The fenders have sweeping lines and the bumpers have sex appeal with their bullet shaped parts called Dagmars. The lines and reflections combined with chrome make painting the cars and trucks a challenge I enjoy," said Masters.

Masters studied with a trompe l'oeil artist for many years and that experience is reflected in the photo-realism of her paintings. There is an abstract quality to some of her work where she only paints a portion of the car or motorcycle. The artist wants the viewer's mind to finish the painting. Masters enjoys the challenge of taking the flat surface of the canvas and turning it into something dimensional, where the cars appear to drive off the canvas with realism and bold color.

Creating chrome is one of Masters' specialties. She creates it through multiple coats of black and white paint that are blended together. Other areas of chrome are created by painting in reflections of surrounding objects. Notice the self portrait of the artist squatting down taking of a picture of the '1956 Chevy,' as well as the reflection of the car parked next to it.

Because automotive painting is so demanding and needs to be accurate, Masters always has a non-automotive painting on her easel. She particularly likes painting flowers from her garden with the same bold colors as her automotive paintings. Masters' portfolio also includes paintings of animals and landscapes.

Cathy Testa, blogger, landscape designer and collector of Masters' work shares, "Nancy received such a phenomenal response to her paintings of vintage vehicles in art shows that everyone encouraged her to do more. Her work is vivid, bright and clean; it is though the sunlight is reflecting on the painting, even when it is not."

Masters exhibit will also include Franklin and Danbury Mint model cars and trucks from the 1930's through the 1970's, provided by collector Mark Midford of Midford Motors, South Windsor, Connecticut. These cars have remarkable details and several movable parts such as doors, steering wheels, and tailgates.

About the Artist

Holding a degree in marketing and finance, Nancy Masters is a baby boomer who discovered art later in life. Masters has studied with a trompe l'oeil painter for many years while also taking courses at local colleges in various mediums such as watercolor, pastels, fiber arts, landscape architecture and many more.

An entrepreneur, Masters founded the Visionary Woman's Group which teaches artists how to network and promote their work. She also runs a co-op for artists.

Active in local nonprofits, Masters served on her local library board for 25 years, where she raised \$100,000 in 100 days. She has also been very active in the fundraising and the day-to-day operations at a youth center in East Windsor, Connecticut, where she and her husband Ron reside.

Masters' oil paintings have hung in the New Britain Museum of American Art and are in many private collections. She exhibits her work in juried shows throughout New England.

About the Gallery

ArtWalk at Hartford Public Library offers one of the largest and most stunning exhibition spaces in greater Hartford and the opportunity for visitors to view art in a magnificent setting in their own community. The state-of-the-art gallery rises above Main Street along a glass wall that floods the space with ambient light during the day and appears to glow as a jewel box at night. Exhibitions offer an array of art experiences that reflect a variety of media, styles, and cultures in the art world, providing diverse viewing experiences, and allowing for many tastes. Art work is displayed on "floating" wall sections that allow the visitor to discover each piece while never seeing the whole exhibition from one vantage point. Because of the unusual cable system in place, one of the most unique aspects of the **ArtWalk** is that any wall and lighting configuration or arrangement can change with the nature of every new exhibition. The gallery was made possible through the generosity of donors, especially the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. To learn more about the **ArtWalk**, please visit www.hplct.org/artwalk.

About Hartford Public Library

Hartford Public Library traces its roots in Hartford, Connecticut to 1774, becoming a public library in 1893. The Library's mission is *to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration*. Today, the Library serves as a bridge to the community through its: literacy initiatives, computer access, information resources, cultural activities, links to the local economy, and safe community space for thousands of men, women and children. With a collection of over 500,000 items the Library receives more than 865,000 visits annually to its ten locations throughout the City. To learn more, call 860-695-6300 or visit www.hplct.org.