



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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Transforming Old into New: Collage Exhibit at Hartford Public Library

HARTFORD, CT (September 23, 2011) — Hartford Public Library announced today that the ArtWalk will host a new exhibition, **The Good Earth – a Retrospective** by Joy Floyd. The free exhibition opens Friday, October 7 with a reception from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and runs through November 11.

The Good Earth – a Retrospective represents a collage of found materials created by artist Joy Floyd. “From my own children and others, I learned that there are bits of beauty everywhere – city sidewalks, park paths, Goodwill bins, attic shoeboxes, and neighbors’ rag bags. We, the children and I, all made ‘stuff’ and had fun. The whole process grew on me, and I learned to keep my eyes open and hoard those bits and pieces and continue making ‘stuff’...to this day. I am a collage artist,” said Floyd.

During a recent visit with her daughter in California, Ms. Floyd found small plastic bags of Japanese kimono scraps for sale. Those cloth bits, along with odd crochet pieces, a Chinese doily, and the corner of a discarded paint drop cloth became a collage. From something old came something new: this transformation is her work.

Ms. Floyd’s process begins with the search, opening her eyes to see the beauty of discarded fabrics, papers, rusted metal, scraps of wood, even buttons and feathers that can be rescued and restored. Then follows the mysterious puzzle of fitting the parts together, using a background of foam core or plywood instead of canvas, and paste and polymer rather than paint.

The materials themselves are Ms. Floyd’s inspiration. She does not aim to make a realistic “picture”. Her goal is to honor the materials with a new identity while retaining the elements of their old life.

Creating the collage with its bits and pieces, textures and colors is Ms. Floyd’s joy.

Glastonbury artist Anne Hebebrand comments, “Joy Floyd makes what is normally discarded and overlooked look beautiful... Although cluttered with collections of found objects, Floyd’s studio is a tranquil place. Here she creates her intimate and beautiful abstract collages. Floyd highlights the sanctity of discarded materials. She describes her way of working as “worshipful.”

About the Artist

Artist Joy Floyd is a retired reference librarian, from the Connecticut State Library. She has been working with collage in a serious way – for over 25 years.

Doing lots of "art" projects with her children, Floyd began to experiment with her own art while also studying art education at Southern Connecticut State University.

In August of this year, Joy and her husband Roger Floyd, a Methodist clergyman, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. She and her husband and I have three children and 5 grandchildren.

As a working artist who lived in Hartford for over 20 years, Floyd continues to work in her studio in the Arbor Art Center in Hartford.

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 <http://artwalk.hplct.org/>.

About Hartford Public Library:

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. www.hplct.org