

EVERHART MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE & ART

1901 Mulberry Street, Scranton, PA 18510

[tel] 570-346-7186 [fax] 570-346-0652 [web] www.everhart-museum.org

For Immediate Release

Press Photographs are Available Upon Request

Contact: Lauren White at 570-346-7186 or public.relations@everhart-museum.org

New Exhibit Focused on the NEPA Landscape and Environment Opens June 20, 2008 at Scranton's Everhart Museum

Scranton – May 20, 2008: The Everhart Museum's second centennial year exhibition focuses on the 50+ works by John Willard Raught held in the Everhart's permanent collection. ***Art of the Land: John Willard Raught and the Continuing NEPA Landscape Tradition*** will be on display at the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art beginning on June 20th and continuing through September 1, 2008. The Everhart's Raught collection began in 1931 when pieces by the artist were donated to the Museum in his memory. Today the Everhart Museum houses the largest public collection of his work.

Recognition and appreciation of Raught's style extends far beyond the geographic confines of Northeast Pennsylvania. One of the Museum's pieces, "A View of Harrison Avenue Bridge," was selected by the Clintons to hang in the White House and later was on display at the Clinton Presidential Library. ***Art of the Land*** features many Raught paintings in the Everhart Museum collection, particularly focusing on his Impressionistic style in capturing both the pastoral and industrial landscapes here in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Additional examples will be included from local private collections, as well as the Anthracite Heritage Museum (Scranton), and the State Museum in Harrisburg, PA.

In order to show the lasting influence of Raught on the region's artistic community, contemporary regional artists are participating in this project with work in several mediums. These works depict the landscape but are also made from land-based materials such as wood and paper, metal, stone, ceramic, and glass. Artists included in the exhibit are: Bill Amptmann, Nannette Burti, Anthony Chickillo, Bill Chickillo, Mark Cohen, Susan Scranton Dawson, Renée Emanuel, Brian Keeler, Pamela Earnshaw Kelly, Gary Kresge, Earl Lehman, Karl Neuroth, Tom Noone, Kevin O'Toole, Jay Paulukonis, Mary Ann Paulukonis, Louis Pontone, Clifton Prokop, George Radeschi, Karen Reid, Christopher Ries, Jordan Taylor, Bill Teitsworth, William Tersteeg, Charles Welles, and Thomas Wise.

Central to the interpretive plan of ***Art of the Land*** is the desire to create an aesthetic and intellectual experience which enhances understanding of the changing nature of the physical environment and creates a sense of place, especially for the residents of our region. John Willard Raught and the contemporary artists featured in the exhibit have been concerned about the environmental conservation in the region, as well as the industrial impact of the coal mining in the region. Public programs will be presented focusing on artistic expression and environmental exploration by using the Museum collections as well as the natural resources of Nay Aug Park. This exhibit is funded in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources through the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority.

A Gallery One exhibit, ***Mining the Landscape: Student Environmental Art***, will further enhance the exhibit by focusing on the efforts of area students who, taking inspiration from John Willard Raught's coal breaker paintings, explore both the beauty and the scarring caused by coalmining in the Northeast Pennsylvania landscape. Led by photographer and Keystone College professor Ward Roe, the students created landscape imagery using photography and collage. Environmental conservation and site scarring, mine reclamation, and pollution are a few of the themes explored in the students' work. ***Mining the Landscape*** will be on display June 20 through September 1, 2008.

The Everhart Museum is open: noon-4:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Monday; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday; and noon-5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/students & seniors, \$2/children 6-12, and free to Everhart Museum members. For more information, contact the museum at 570-346-7186 or email general.information@everhart-museum.org.

###

About the Everhart Museum: Founded in 1908, the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art is the largest general museum in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Everhart Museum, located in Nay Aug Park in Scranton, is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to the collection, care and display of a diverse array of artifacts, including natural history, science and fine arts. Through our exhibits and programs, the Everhart Museum has become an invaluable regional resource for educational and cultural opportunities. General support for the museum is received from the Lackawanna County Office of Education & Culture, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the City of Scranton. For more information on the museum visit our website at www.everhart-museum.org or contact us at 570-346-7186.