



**Neville
Public
Museum**

Of Brown County

*An educational and cultural
resource of Brown County*

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Becky McKee, President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 3, 2008

Contact: For additional details or general Museum information (hours, admission fees, location, etc.), visit www.nevillepublicmuseum.org or call 920-448-4460.

Re: *David Holmes: New Works and "Old," Mystical Mechanical Menagerie* opens January 19 at Neville Public Museum

Green Bay, WI— Enjoy the sometimes whimsical, sometimes satiric, sculptures of David Holmes from January 19 through March 30 at the Neville Public Museum.

David Holmes: New Works and "Old," Mystical Mechanical Menagerie portrays how animals have been turned into "machines" to expedite human progress, altering natural selection by selective crossbreeding, and raising the question of where technology will lead us; perhaps metamorphosing animals into hybrid works of part human technology, part usable animal. Holmes describes his exhibit as a "quasi-futuristic maleficent medicine or circus side show" with the purpose of confronting "the audience with what we have done with our fellow creatures." Attempting to take on a more humorous approach to the issue, Holmes, whose aesthetic philosophy is to seduce the viewer into certain perspectives through amusing creations, uses classic themes in the history of art as well as inspiration from popular cultural icons.

David Holmes' one-artist exhibition, *The Mystical Mechanical Menagerie*, has been previously displayed at the Kenosha Public Museum, Carroll College, Northwestern University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Memorial Union Gallery, and at several other campuses within the UW system since it began touring in the year 2000. Two of his earlier one-artist exhibitions – *The Alchemic Emporium* and *The Greater Christian Carnival, Holmtown USA* – also toured galleries and museums across the United States in the 1980s and 1990s.

Mr. Holmes is Professor of Painting, Drawing and Design at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside (Kenosha), where he has been teaching for three decades. He has received many prestigious fellowships and awards for both his teaching abilities and his artistic talents ever since receiving the Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1972.

His exhibition record spans thirty-five years, and includes solo shows, group exhibitions, and thematic exhibitions at the Wustum Museum of Art (Racine, WI); Kohler Arts Center (Sheboygan, WI); Milwaukee Art Museum; Northwestern University (Evanston, IL); and many others. His work is in numerous private and public collections, including those of the Milwaukee Art Museum, Indiana Arts Center, Kohler Arts Center, Madison Art Center, and Kent State University, to name only a few.

Curator of Art Marilyn Stasiak will give tours of *Mystical Mechanical Menagerie* on February 7 and February 28. Tours begin at noon, last about 1/2 hour and are free with admission. No reservations are needed.

For more information, contact Marilyn Stasiak, Curator of Art at the Neville Public Museum at 920-448-7846 or email her at stasiak_mf@co.brown.wi.us.

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