

AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM

800 KEY HIGHWAY • BALTIMORE, MD • 410.244.1900 • AVAM.ORG

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Baltimore, Maryland

The American Visionary Art Museum & Enoch Pratt Free Library present

THE INSTITUTE FOR VISIONARY EXPLORERS

A series of free After School Workshops at the Enoch Pratt Free Library

The American Visionary Art Museum in partnership with the Enoch Pratt Free Library is pleased to announce: **THE INSTITUTE FOR VISIONARY EXPLORERS**, a series of free After School Workshops for students to explore creative new territory inspired by our most beloved visionaries, their unusual materials, their unforgettable stories and amazing artwork. These free workshops will be offered for students 2nd-6th grade at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Pennsylvania Avenue Branch (1531 W. North Avenue Baltimore, MD 21217), and will be modeled after AVAM's current After School workshops.

In the fall of 2010, AVAM's Education Team pioneered & led our wildly popular After School program at the museum for students in 3rd-6th grade. In collaboration with nearby Federal Hill Preparatory School (FHPS), seventeen students spent one afternoon a week exploring the museum, delving into the stories of our visionaries, creating artwork beyond their wildest imagination and always having a ton of fun. Each week students built a sense of ownership to AVAM, a museum that is part of their community, and also built their own creative confidence. Many of the same students returned for the 2011/12 academic year. AVAM has continued to offer students a unique museum experience with a variety of After School workshops that focus on a distinct visionary theme. The workshops each run for 3 weeks at a time and continue throughout the Academic year. While still maintaining a strong relationship with FHPS, the program has expanded and is now open to students throughout Baltimore City. Students also have many opportunities throughout the year to show off their creative endeavors with After School Receptions that parents and guests may attend. More information on AVAM's current After School workshops can be found at: <http://avam.org/for-educators-and-educatees/after-school.shtml>.

This March, AVAM will expand its After School educational offerings to serve students at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Pennsylvania Avenue Branch. In partnering with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, AVAM hopes to reach a wider audience of young, creative minds throughout Baltimore City with **THE INSTITUTE FOR VISIONARY EXPLORERS**. Veteran Visionary Instructors will lead weekly projects and share AVAM's collection through photos, videos and stories with the students at the library, and then present them with a challenge of venturing on their own visionary exploration.

The American Visionary Art Museum's educational programming is deeply rooted in AVAM's Seven Educational goals, the first of which is to "Expand the definition of a worthwhile life." In creating **THE INSTITUTE FOR VISIONARY EXPLORERS**, AVAM hopes to reach a new audience and open their eyes to all the possibility and beauty in our world. AVAM also hopes to challenge the explorers to tap into an innate sense of self-reliance and exploration by introducing new materials and concepts.

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Schedule for AVAM's Spring 2012 Workshops at Enoch Pratt Free Library (Pennsylvania Avenue Branch)

All workshops are designed for students grades 2–6.

Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm // March 7, 14 and 21

BAUBLES TO BOTTLECAPS : AN EXPLORATIONS OF VISIONARY MATERIALS

Visionary artists are notorious for using unusual materials, both extraordinary and mundane. We have come across artists using toothpicks, toilet brushes, sock threads and pizza boxes – all to create surprising works of art. Students will learn about many of these artists and have the opportunity to dig through our endless bins of "random fun" to create projects with our storehouse of visionary materials.

Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm // April 4*, 11 and 18

GUIDE TO VISIONARY GARB

What could be more fun than creating your own out-of-this-world costumes!? Learn more about the American Visionary Art Museum's current exhibition, "ALL THINGS ROUND: Galaxies, Eyeballs and Karma." Be inspired by Grace Greene's button dress, a wide variety of captivating crowns and Deborah Berger's knitted wonders. Create your own costume from cardboard, top it off with a tape hat and re-think some of the items in your own closet!

**Note: Extra long and extra special project on April 4th so come early to be part of the fun! This day only: 2:00-5:30pm*

Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm // May 9, 16 and 23

VISIONARY ROUND-UP

Explore the wondrous world of visionary art through learning about the American Visionary Art Museum's newest mega exhibition, "ALL THINGS ROUND: Galaxies,

Eyeballs and Karma.” Discover the fascinating stories behind our artists while creating circular projects and spherical sculptures. Get caught in a roundabout as we show you all the ways to think about orbs, globes and spheres!

For more information on **THE INSTITUTE FOR VISIONARY EXPLORERS: After School Workshops at the Enoch Pratt Free Library**, visit: <http://avam.org/for-educators-and-educatees/visionary-explorers.shtml>. For more information on the Enoch Pratt Free Library, including directions, library hours & more, visit: <http://www.prattlibrary.org/locations/pennave/>.

AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM (AVAM) is America’s official national museum and education center for self-taught, intuitive artistry. Since its opening in 1995, the museum has sought to promote the recognition of intuitive, self-reliant, creative contribution as both an important historic and essential living piece of treasured human legacy. The one-of-a-kind American Visionary Art Museum is located on a 1.1 acre wonderland campus at 800 Key Highway, Baltimore Inner Harbor. Three renovated, historic, industrial buildings house wonders created by farmers, housewives, mechanics, retired folk, the disabled, the homeless, as well as the occasional neurosurgeon – all inspired by the fire within. From carved roots to embroidered rags, tattoos to toothpicks, the visionary transforms dreams, loss, hopes, and ideals into powerful works of art.

CURRENT EXHIBITION:

ALL THINGS ROUND: Galaxies, Eyeballs & Karma

October 7, 2011–September 2, 2012

The American Visionary Art Museum’s seventeenth annual, thematic mega-exhibition “**ALL THINGS ROUND: Galaxies, Eyeballs & Karma**” is a celebration and call to awareness of the circular and voluptuous nature of life. From the micro-atomic spin of electrons encircling a nucleus, to the macro orbit of planets rounding our sun, “**ALL THINGS ROUND**” delights in the curves, spirals, orbs, and bubbles of full-bodied beauty that playfully manifest throughout art, science, and beyond.

This wholly original art exhibition features the exuberant works of 70+ inspired, intuitive artists including: Scott Weaver’s 100,000 toothpick wonder, “Rolling Through The Bay;” Adolf Wölfli’s intricate mandala-like works; spherical sculptures of artists who are sight-impaired; and the micro dot sock-thread embroideries of Ray Materson. Don’t miss Frank Warren’s all-time best true karmic “PostSecrets;” the 3-D sacred yarn paintings of the Huichol Indians; and a cosmic tribute to cyclical notions of time – including an exploration into the fast-approaching 2012 Winter Solstice “end” of the Mayan Calendar!

Co-curated by Museum Founder & Director Rebecca Hoffberger and Mary Ellen ‘Dolly’ Vehlow – award-winning graphic designer & founder/sponsor of Washington, D.C.’s H Street Festival, “**ALL THINGS ROUND: Galaxies, Eyeballs & Karma**” is a lively circle dance with its visitors of all ages at its center!

SINGLE GALLERY EXHIBITIONS:

Out Of This World

Centennial Celebration of Eugene Von Bruenchenhein

Extended through March 2, 2012 – Third Floor Gallery, Main Building

Permanent Collection Gallery

Selections from the museum's permanent collection featuring Wayne Kusy's "Lusitania"; Anonymous "Applewood Figure;" and James Franklin Snodgrass' "Untitled (Seven Panels)."

Ongoing – First Floor Gallery, Main Building

Jim Rouse Visionary Center

Cabaret Mechanical Theatre; Baltimore Painted Screens; Kinetic Sculptures; DeVon Smith's "World's First Robot Family;" Andrew Logan's "Divine;" Leonard Knight's "God is Love Balloon;" David Best's Community ArtCar Project; & more!

Ongoing – First Floor, Jim Rouse Visionary Center

Exterior Plazas

A three-ton, four-story "Whirligig" by Vollis Simpson; Andrew Logan's "Cosmic Egg;" Adam Kurtzman's giant "Golden Hand;" David Hess' "Bird's Nest Balcony;" Dr. Evermor's "Phoenix;" Dick Brown's "Bluebird of Happiness;" Wildflower Sculpture Garden featuring Ben Wilson's wooden meditation chapel/wedding altar; the glittering Community Mosaic Wall; and more!

Ongoing – Throughout Museum Grounds

VISITOR INFORMATION

The American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM) is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10am–6pm. The museum is closed on Mondays,* Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day. AVAM is located next to historic Federal Hill park at 800 Key Highway, Baltimore Inner Harbor, 21230. Admission prices, general museum info, directions, and parking info can be found online at avam.org or by calling (410) 244-1900.

**OPEN Monday Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as AVAM's celebration of all of life's possibilities! Free admission & special programming.*

MUSEUM PROGRAMS & EVENTS

View our online calendar for a complete list of all current Museum Programs & Events at: <http://avam.org/news-and-events/calendar.shtml>

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PRESS IMAGES are available for download from AVAM's website:

<http://avam.org/news-and-events/media-info.shtml>, email nick@avam.org for password.