



Bringing Science, Art, and History to Life

PRESS RELEASE

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LLOYD LIBRARY AND MUSEUM RECEIVES ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE GRANT FROM OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

***Alternative Field Guide* Created by Community Participants under the Guidance of
Local Artist Kate Kern**

Exhibition Dates: September 13 through December 30, 2008

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 13, 4–6 p.m.

Through a generous grant from the Ohio Arts Council, Lloyd Library and Museum was able to host an Artist-in-Residence program this past July. Guided by local visual artist Kate Kern, Lloyd's choice for Artist-in-Residence, community participants from a variety of local institutions, organizations, and walks of life created marvelous artworks, inspired by Lloyd's collections. These will be brought together in a public exhibition inventively titled *Alternative Field Guide* by Kern. The diversity of Lloyd's collections offered a vast array of topics for the artists, who used resources on subjects such as botany, travel and exploration, insects, historical medical treatments, midwifery, shells, mushrooms, horticulture, and pharmacy. The artworks will be displayed in Lloyd's Art Gallery and a complementary exhibition of a selection of books used as inspiration, including the name of the participant, the title of their creation, and their artist's statement, will be displayed in the Exhibition Alcove.

This exhibit will be the second display of newly-created original art to use the Lloyd's scientific collections to demonstrate the natural alliance between the visual arts and science, both of which are about creativity and discovery. The first exhibit was the 2003-2004 *Mining the Lloyd: Book Artists Reveal Secrets and Treasures from the Lloyd Library and Museum* for which regional and national book artists were invited to explore Lloyd's collections and create a new bookwork inspired by one of the hundreds of thousands books held by the Library. What makes the *Alternative Field Guide* refreshing and unique is that the creators were self-selected participants who are not widely-regarded as artists and came from a variety backgrounds and professions. Librarians, educators, gardeners, retirees, and young students all came together to make art under the expert tutelage, outstanding assistance, and inspiration of a professional artist. Kern had previous knowledge and experience at the Lloyd when she participated in the *Mining the Lloyd* exhibit. Of that participation, Kern wrote, "I was impressed by the helpfulness of the staff and the aesthetic promise of the collection." She was, therefore, the perfect choice to guide community participants and introduce them to the wonders of Lloyd's collections.

Lloyd Library's grant application was developed by the Residency Planning Committee made up of Lloyd Director Maggie Heran, Lloyd Archivist/IT Specialist Anna Heran, Art Academy Professor Gary Gaffney, and Art Teacher Kathy Chabot. The committee created an application that received high marks from the Ohio Arts Council Review Panel, who singled out its artistic, educational, and cultural merit, its innovative design in bringing scientific research into the artistic realm, as well as it being a new model for library/museum collaboration with the community. During the planning period, the committee sent hundreds of letters describing the project and inviting participation from educators, scientists, students, artists, librarians, Lloyd Friends members, garden clubs, and many other local individuals and organizations. The plan was well received and in December 2007 an informational meeting was held at the Lloyd and attended by many potential participants.

Community support for the project was high. Professor of Botany at Miami University, Nicholas P. Money, wrote in his letter of support, "The opportunities for communication between artists, scientists, and all kinds of library visitors seem limitless, and this project is the first step of an enduring outreach activity." One of Lloyd's Friends members, Professor of History Robert L. Woods, Jr. at Pomona College in California, wrote, "The artistic reworking of seemingly historical, scientific tomes, can only further creativity, the appreciation of the compositional process, and a fuller involvement in the intersecting worlds of books, manuscripts, photos and treatises."

The exciting artworks created and the exhibition in which they will be displayed will have broad appeal and will be of great interest to many people. The public is invited to attend the opening reception and exhibit, both free, to see a remarkable example of community art created in and inspired by a scientific research library. At the reception, there will also be opportunities to meet Kate Kern and many of the Residency participants. For more information about the Lloyd Library and Museum, see below.

The **Lloyd Library and Museum**, located at 917 Plum Street, downtown Cincinnati, is a local and regional treasure. The library was developed in the nineteenth century by the Lloyd brothers—John Uri, Curtis Gates, and Nelson Ashley to provide reference sources for Lloyd Brothers Pharmacists, Inc., one of the leading pharmaceutical companies of the period. Today the library is recognized worldwide by the scientific community as a vital research center. The library holds, acquires, and provides access to both historic and current materials on the subjects of pharmacy, botany, horticulture, herbal and alternative medicine, pharmacognosy, and related topics. Although our collections have a scientific focus, they also have relevance to humanities topics, such as visual arts and foreign languages through resources that feature botanical and natural history illustrations, original artworks, and travel literature, thereby revealing the convergence of science and art. The Lloyd is open to anyone with an interest in these topics. Free parking is available for patrons and visitors behind the library building. For more information, visit the Lloyd website at www.lloydlibrary.org.

Lloyd Library and Museum

917 Plum Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

513-721-3707

www.lloydlibrary.org

Open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Open the third Saturday of the month, September through May, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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