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## For Immediate Release

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# Travel off the Beaten Path with Pioneering Artists as they Define the New Frontier in Lowell, MA

National Endowment for the Arts funded project on view from September 26, 2003 to April 4, 2004

LOWELL – The evolving Revolving Museum has once again been transformed. Its latest adventure, ***LocalMotive: Public Art off the Beaten Path***, has recently turned on the lights of its gallery exhibition and turned traditional art viewing upside down. As the twelve public sculptures unveiled this summer converted the outdoors into a museum, the natural world is now being exhibited inside the gallery. Journey from room to room experiencing strange, exotic, and ecologically sensitive environments created with materials artists discovered on their own journeys *off the beaten path*.

### Gallery Artists Include:

**Jim Coates'** sculpture, *View from the Woods*, consists of an impressive 12' long tree discovered in the woods near his home in Southern New Hampshire. Over time a natural process of decay left the center of the tree hollow, inspiring the artist to transform it into a giant telescope. Adding the element of sound, the tree echos with sounds of nature bringing the deep forest into the gallery space.

**Krista Dragomer's** *Children of the Celestial Tree* is a powerful installation of supernatural creatures made from yarn, wool, carpets, and other textiles. This extraordinary figurative work was made through a process of weaving, unraveling and knotting, in which, the artist alludes to the mythic identities of dream, place and memory. The work also communicates the history of women's hands working to clothe and comfort the self, family and community.

Imagine sitting on the lap of a giant bear goddess made entirely of hay. Artist, activist, and gardener **Jesse Isaak-Ross'** sculptural work entitled *You are Held*, explores animal identity and challenges the audience to discover their own 'beast and or beauty' within. Both humorous and serious, this piece investigates issues of sexuality, relationships, warmth and security.

**Dawn Southworth's** mixed media and participatory installation includes two opposing 12' foot high by 20' long walls. Collaged from driftwood pieces, branches, cruciforms, and circles, this meditative and metaphoric work focuses on themes of journey and memory. The artist provides note cards and envelopes for the public to make a wish, drawing, statement or prayer and pin it to the wall. This action connects the artist's process of collecting materials with the gathering of people's expressions, feeling and experiences.

**Tapart.com** is a collaborative team of artists who have created *Return to Eden*, a floor, wall and ceiling environment that uses countless rolls of green masking tape to create a garden featuring an actual dirt floor and wildlife creatures eating junk food. In a reversal of the exodus from Eden, Eve and Adam return to The New Eden and become the vehicles for offering the new temptation. How can you resist?

With the help of friends and family, **Nadya Volicer** has constructed a welcoming shack made of discarded wood and recycled materials that responds to the ongoing search for a safe place to call home. A highlight of this ambitious work is the glowing mosaic floor that is puzzled together to mimic wood grain. Those who enter are invited to add drawings to the structure, using scraps of wood leftover from the creation of the floor.



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Other gallery artists in the show include: Tony Silvia, Laura Mayotte, Jessica Cogswell, Eric Stevenson Taylor, Steve Cunha, Zhuo Yi Xu (Lily), Timothy Ray Goguen, Jerry Beck, Alison Nesbitt, Stephanie Chiotto, Caleb Neelon aka SONIK, Bobby Mongillo, Castro-Yves Arboite, Lewis Giplaye Amy Crane, Kathleen Driscoll, Nora Valdez, Andrew Oesch, Jay Zehngebot, Michael Townsend, Meg Landers, Patrick Pierce, Rob Duarte, Barbara Zeles, Janice Pokorski

Participating Schools & organizations: Lowell Community Charter School, UMASS Lowell J.G. Pyne Arts Magnet School, St. Ann's Home, Project R.I.S.E.

***LocalMotive's outdoor exhibit***, which is on display through December, focuses on the industrial history of Lowell and its railroads. Twelve outdoor sculptures created by the collaboration of over 200 local artists, students and city youth rejuvenate many parts of downtown Lowell that have been overlooked and under appreciated. Among the works are a 100 foot long mural painted by artist and educator Nora Valdez and her students at the Lowell Community Charter School; a 16'x4' wheel sculpture focusing on Lowell's textile and immigration history by professor and resident artist Laura Mayotte and her Umass Lowell students; and a storytelling tower made by the renowned graffiti artist Caleb Neelon, a.k.a. Sonik.

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The museum's hours for the general public are Thursday-Sunday from 12-4PM. General admission into the gallery exhibit is \$3. *LocalMotives'* outdoor exhibit can be enjoyed **FREE** of charge.

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***LocalMotive*** is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, City of Lowell, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Department of Environmental Management, Lowell National Historic Park, Lowell Telecommunications Corporation, Enterprise Bank and Trust, Lowell Cultural Council, Patrick Mogan Cultural Center, Ideal Tape Company, Harmon's Paint and Wallpaper Company, J & P Tree Service, New England Foundation for the Arts, Nancy and Richard Donahue, ColourWorks, Harry Stollers & Company, Electrical Dist., Inc., and our incredibly generous members, volunteers, and friends.

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