



Northwest Pennsylvania  
Artist Association

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---PRESS RELEASE---

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**NUTS & BOLTZ**  
-WORLD PREMIERE-

*July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association (NPAA) is pleased to present an exhibit of historic significance in the Erie and Great Lakes region. This show titled *Nuts and Boltz*, will feature the work of over 50 visual artists representing the diverse makeup of the NPAA. The exhibition will focus on the sustainability of Industrial Architecture as evidenced by its unique venue a former industrial facility located in downtown Erie. This show exemplifies the vitality of artistic creativity in Middle America and also highlights the reuse of industrial space abandoned by the pressures of an ever changing global market. Through its sponsors *Nuts and Boltz* also pays tribute to the creative and innovative companies that have continued to survive in this competitive environment. By virtue of their sponsorship they help validate their commitment to the Erie Arts community continuing a tradition of support historically found between Art and Industry. The show will open at 1020 Holland St. in Erie on August 6<sup>th</sup>, with an opening reception for artists, the press, manufacturer sponsors and guests from 5-9pm.

*Nuts and Boltz* is a great example of a group of work produced for a no holds barred exhibition. Artists were invited to produce any single work or group of related works. Size and content hold no restrictions. The result is a raw industrial space that is filled with an eclectic mix of work ranging from Fran Schanz's holographic piece to Brian Pardini's found driftwood finely crafted into 3 dimensional marvels. The roster of artists goes on and on, from the self taught metalworker to painters, sculptors and performers with degrees from prestigious art schools throughout the country.

If there is a lesson to be learned in this economic downturn, it is that artistic creativity in America is blossoming. The reuse of idle industrial space provides a much needed outlet for this explosion of work. While these structures are often considered “urban blight,” artists have seized the opportunity across America to readapt their usage and cities are reinventing themselves in the process. Prudent city planners no longer resort to the wrecking ball, but instead look for ways to preserve these monuments as road maps to America’s proud industrial past. The membership of the NPAA is proud to be a part of this movement. As an organization whose primary mission is to raise the level of awareness of the visual arts in Northwestern Pennsylvania we feel this exhibition fulfills our objectives both within the walls of the exhibit and by emphasizing the sustainability of the building that holds the exhibit.

The *Nuts and Boltz* exhibit runs at 1020 Holland Street through September 8<sup>th</sup>. The work then gets dispersed and will be on display at various manufacture sponsors throughout Erie County. These companies, along with a grant supported through ArtsErie have made this exhibit possible. The show will conclude at the sponsor sites on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

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