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ART LEAGUE HOUSTON PRESENTS

Museum of Unnatural History

A dioramic installation of new works by Elaine Bradford

January 9 - February 20, 2009

Main Gallery, Art League Houston

OPENING RECEPTION & ARTIST TALK

Friday, January 9, 2009, 6 - 8 p.m.

FREE DOCENT TOURS

January 10 and February 7, 2 p.m.

Art League Houston is pleased to announce the opening of *Museum of Unnatural History*, a dioramic installation of new works by Elaine Bradford, on view from January 9 - February 20, 2009. *Museum of Unnatural History* consists of dioramic displays similar to those found in natural history museums, and which serve as "natural habitats" for the artist's fantastical crochet covered taxidermy creatures.

This exhibition is made possible in part by a grant from the Houston Arts Alliance.

The opening reception for *Museum of Unnatural History* is on Friday, January 9, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. with an artist talk at 6:15 p.m. This exhibition, which takes place in the Main Gallery of the Art League, opens in conjunction with our Front Gallery presentation, the Gold Key Art Exhibition, featuring the winners of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of the Harris County Department of Education. As part of *Museum of Unnatural History*, two free docent led tours will be conducted for the public on January 10 and February 7 at 2:00 p.m.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Elaine Bradford received her BFA from The University of Texas at Austin in May 2000, and her MFA from California Institute of the Arts in May 2003. She is now living and working in Houston, TX. Her most recent work involves crocheting sweaters for taxidermied animals. She has shown extensively across the United States. Her work has recently been exhibited in group shows at Greenlease Gallery in Kansas City, MO, MassArt in Boston, MA, Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek, CA and in the Galveston Art Center in Galveston, TX. In 2007 she had solo shows at Women and their Work in Austin, TX, Hunt Gallery in St. Louis, MO, and Cactus Bra in San Antonio, TX. Bradford is the recipient of a 2008 Individual Artist Fellowship Grant from the Houston Arts Alliance.

RELATED PROGRAMS

While viewing *Museum of Unnatural History* don't miss the Gold Key Art Exhibition, featuring the winners of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of the Harris County Department of Education. In our front gallery, January 9 - February 20, 2009.

On Saturday, January 24, 2009 from 9:00 am to noon, Art League Houston and Target are pleased to present *ArtBound!*, our newest initiative designed to promote family literacy and interaction through a series of fun workshops for parents and children. January's *ArtBound!* workshop *Crazy Animal Characters*, is conducted by sculptor Katy Heinlein. During this hands on event, children and their parents will make animal characters based on their own stories. Although this workshop is free, reservations are required.

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