

The Secret Spaces of Childhood

The Crooked Tree Arts Center announces the opening of a wonderful new exhibition entitled: *The Secret Spaces of Childhood* which is inspired by a seminar and exhibit that was developed by Professor Elizabeth Goodenough, and originated at the Residential College of the University of Michigan. Artists were asked to create a work of art that speaks of a place that they went to as a child where they could be free to imagine the world as they saw it. As stated by Goodenough: “Children know the importance of hiding out, of finding the ‘just for me’ place where they can’t be seen. Secret spaces may be found inside or outdoors – in a tree fort or a den of snow, on the roof or behind the stairs. But seeking getaways is essential to putting things together for themselves and becoming who they are. As our sense of endangered survival on this shrinking planet becomes acute, children are our last frontier.”

Artists being represented in *The Secret Spaces of Childhood* are: Susan Glass, Kate Marshall, Dan Chingwa, Russ Bolt, Sue Bolt, Doug Melvin, Peggy Midener, Judith Hitz, Kay Root, Betty Bebb, Pam Keller, Kelli Snively, Diane Call, Kathy Bruehl, Marylyn Stockwell, Sandy Selden, Dorothy Anderson Grow, Molly Jo Noland, Cornelia/Irah Dhaseleer, Jessie Hickman, Kim Krumrey, Katherine Cowell, Tom Pohrt, Heidi Marshall, Glenn Wolff, Steve Toornman, Meredith Krell, Justin Guarisco, and Ceci Bauer. Integral to the artwork is an artist’s statement linking personal experience to the concept of children’s secret spaces. The exhibition will be on display from October 21 through November 25, 2006, with the opening scheduled Saturday, October 21 from 2-4 p.m.

Elizabeth Goodenough will be giving a lecture and book signing on Monday October 23 at 10:00 a.m., as part of the Crooked Tree Arts Center’s Coffee at Ten series. If you are interested in more information about Elizabeth Goodenough and the concept, she has a book that can be purchased through The University of Michigan Press entitled “Secret Spaces of Childhood” and is available online through their website.

The opening and exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information please contact the Crooked Tree Arts Center at 461 East Mitchell Street, Petoskey, Michigan 49770 or call at 231-347-4337. This exhibition was sponsored in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Bay Harbor Foundation and the Triford Foundation.

