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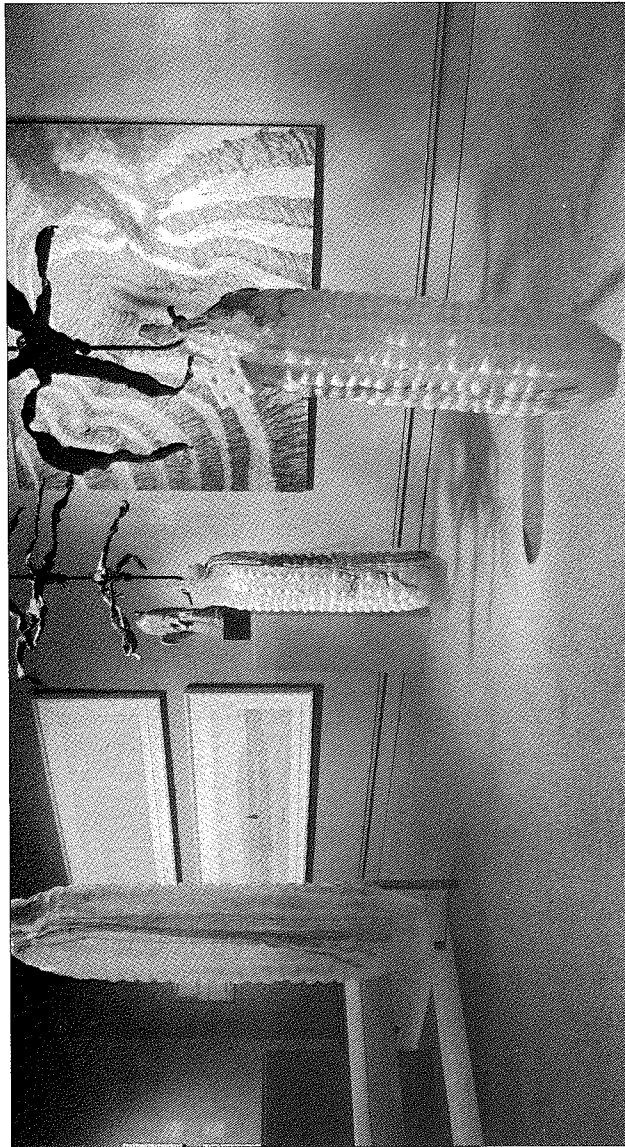
Museum of Art features new exhibit on environmental impacts

BY TERRILYN HO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Starting Saturday, Feb. 14, Saint Mary's Museum of Art has been showcasing the "Environmental Impact" exhibition, which is a traveling museum exhibit that features a myriad of artwork from a series of prominent, contemporary artists. The exhibit will be featured in the Museum of Art until Sunday, May 1. According to John Schneider, the Museum Manager, "The Museum of Art is the final stop for this nation-wide exhibit."

David Wagner, the curator of the exhibit, features several artists whose work brings awareness to the urgency, persuasiveness, and abundance of insights, perspectives, and the power of art. A few of these artists include: Chester Arnold (Sonoma, CA), Britt Freda (Burton, WA), Peter J. Goin (Reno, NV), Karen Hackenberg (Port Townsend, WA), Mary Helsing (Sedona, AZ), Michael Meilahn (Pickett, WI), Martin Stupich (Albuquerque, NM), and Suze Woolf (Seattle, WA). The 50 paintings, photographs, prints, installations, and sculptures aim to be set apart from conventional art pieces, which often portray nature in a bright and joyous manner.

Instead, their art deals with ominous environmental issues that stretch from oil spills to the threat of nuclear energy and many



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EXHIBIT showcases a corn-inspired piece. (Courtesy of John Schneider)

the inhabitants of this planet. The exhibit's purpose is to commemorate a new way of appreciating the dynamic and emotional impact of art on the ongoing environmental issues that are prevalent within today's society.

One of the most prominent pieces that is featured in this exhibit is a lead painting by famed Canadian artist Robert Bateman, entitled "Carmanah Contrast." This work was influenced by a renowned Sitka Spruce in Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park that is revered for its immense size and is over a thousand years old. It swans 314 feet high, amongst a

ing outpourings of protests by locals over clear-cutting that had been occurring in the area for years. Bateman's painting shows both sides of the story: creation and human desecration.

A 2012 Earth Policy Release by Janet Larsen, titled "Meat Consumption in China Now Double That in the United States," shows how the Mandarin symbol in China for "home" is articulated as a pig under a roof. Today, that pig is being slaughtered for human consumption in factory farms, bringing awareness to the fact that more pigs are being killed in China than anywhere else in the world.

to have more classes and students visit and explore this exhibit. Like all of our exhibits, Environmental Impact has stand alone importance as an educator," said Schneider. He added, "There are two goals we aspire to reach with students. The first is getting students to visit and engage the relevant materials on display. The second is to spark dialogue, thinking, and reflection outside of the Museum creating a more complete individual thinker."

The Museum is currently open Wednesday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact John