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Greylock Arts plans electric art workshop

By **Ryan Hutton**

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North Adams Transcript

NORTH ADAMS -- Those who have always wanted to learn more about the interplay of art and electricity can broaden their knowledge tonight with the help of Adams-based Greylock Arts.

Greylock Arts is hosting an electronic-art workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. at Gallery 51 on Main Street in North Adams to give people a hands-on look at the type of art that they can create with a diode and a switch.

The workshop came out of Greylock Arts' "Everything Must Go!" exhibit that was produced for DownStreet Art. Made by artists Ephraim and Sadie Hatfield, "Everything Must Go!" uses electronic art pieces to explore economies based on gifts and barter.

"They mass produced about 300 pedestals that have motors and batteries and switches that make them move," said Greylock Arts' co-owner Marianne Petit. "People have been donating a lot of different items to add to the pieces, and those going to the exhibit can take a piece if they like it. The idea is that they're giving away art."

Petit said the exhibit has already given away over 130 art pieces since it opened on June 23. She added that many of the people who have taken the art have come back and given items for future pieces or in exchange for what they received.

"There's been this wonderful exchange of things people have given in relation to the art \S " she said. "Part of this is that we didn't quite anticipate how successful

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the whole barter and exchange thing would be. People have brought in all kinds of awesome things -- toys, small bottles, keys, personal tokens -- a lot of interesting items."

The workshop takes place between 6 and 8 p.m. and is open to adults and children accompanied by a guardian. Petit said the workshop -- taught by Greylock Arts co-owner Matt Belanger -- includes an overview of electronic art, the components of the art form, and a hands-on experience for people who want to create it themselves.

"They're learning how to make a simple circuit, learning about a battery and a switch and diode and how to solder it all themselves," Petit said. "It's really the basics of creating an electric circuit."

Greylock Arts held a similar workshop on July 9 at Gallery 51 that was a success, Petit said. About a dozen people attended and many of them bartered the piece they had just made with one in the exhibit. Petit encouraged people to bring a small personal item to include in their motorized sculpture that is roughly three inches wide, six inches tall and fairly light.

this works?" she said. "The sort of demystifying of something that people may find complicated and magical. With electricity, a lot of people just know you push a button and something happens. Now they get to learn how."

For more information on the workshop and "Everything Must Go!" visit www.greylockarts.net. To RSVP for the workshop, email info@greylockarts.net.

To reach Ryan Hutton, email rhutton@thetranscript.com.

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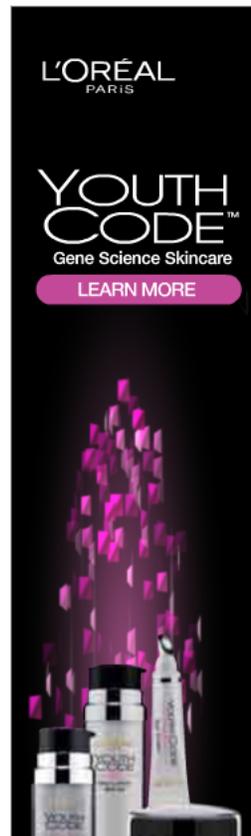
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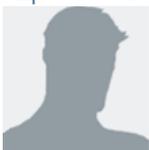
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