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CENTERS FOR PEOPLE WITH BEHAVIORAL & INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES

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ABOVE & BELOW: AUTUMN ART FROM EVERYONE AN ARTIST
Opening Reception, Friday, November 7, 2008, 7:00-9:30 PM
Afternoon Reception, Friday, November 14, 2008, 1:00-3:00 PM
Closing Reception, Friday, January 16, 2009, 7:00-9:30 PM
Everyone an Artist Gallery, Lawrenceville
Pittsburgh's only gallery dedicated to artists with disabilities

As the harvest season comes to a close, the air turns cold, and birds fly south for winter, the artists at Everyone an Artist in Lawrenceville are taking note. Crafting elaborate birds out of ribbons and everyday objects, this diverse group of artists is also busy creating other autumn artwork. Drawings, paintings and collages of leaves, gourds, pumpkins, and pine cones are abundant in the art studio. The end result is an eclectic mix of beautiful color combinations and styles.

The original idea was inspired by a local Pittsburgh artist and influenced by the changing seasons. Gallery Curator Kirsten Ervin underscores the importance of observation in creating art. "We're not teaching people how to *draw* a pumpkin," Ervin says, "We're teaching people how to *see* a pumpkin ... to make connections between the world around them through art."

Artist Jay Velasquez says "I like the fall because of the leaves, purple and burgundy. I like to paint birds and bees [too]. I like that they fly." Artist Kevin McBurney echoes this sentiment, "I like looking at the birds and drawing them best. I feel happy when I do art."

This exciting collection of birds and autumn art will be on display for "Above & Below" exhibit, opening at Everyone an Artist on Friday, November 7, 7 – 9:30 pm. There will be an additional afternoon reception on Friday, November 14, from 1 – 3 pm.

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