



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anne Farrow, 860-695-6296, afarrow@hplct.org

New Lace Exhibition to Open at Hartford History Center

Hartford, Connecticut (April 23, 2013) — For everyone who has ever been interested in the vast and varied traditions in lace and lace-making, a new exhibition opens on May 9 in the third-floor glass cases of the Hartford History Center, and the new show underscores the idea that everything old is new again.

“Study in Lace” will showcase the contemporary work of approximately 30 artisans from the Hartford Artisans Weaving Center, and though all the examples are based on historical styles, only two are direct copies of old lace.

Weaving center director Fran Curran says that there are two, precise reproductions of lace made by Shakers, but the rest are interpretations of old designs. “A lot of [the pieces] will be taking those old laces and refining [them] in a way to be modern,” Curran said.

Modern fibers such as soy silk and bamboo are part of that modern interpretation, as are some of the colors that the artisans will use. Most of the artisans at the weaving center are over 55 and many of them have limited vision or no vision. Curran explains that the highly textural nature of lace “structure” has proven to be very appropriate because the weavers are able to feel the tactile patterns of the object they create.

The weaving center had an earlier exhibition of artisans’ weavings at the Hartford History Center last spring, and recently received a grant from the Greater Hartford Arts Council to study and create woven lace textiles.

“Our earlier exhibition with the weaving center was very popular, so we are delighted to be able to showcase their work again,” said Brenda J. Miller, Chief Officer for Cultural Affairs and Public Programming at Hartford Public Library. “It’s remarkable to see these wonderful re-interpretations of old designs.”

The exhibition will open with a reception on May 9 at 6 p.m. in the Hartford History Center; the artisans’ table linens, scarves, shawls, blankets and clothing will be on display until August 3. After the exhibition closes in early August, the weavers’ creations will be for sale.

For more information about the Hartford Artisans Weaving Center, please see www.weavingcenter.org

About Hartford History Center

The Hartford History Center is home to the Hartford Collection, a non-circulating, multi-media collection comprised of more than 100,000 books, trade publications, directories, postcards, photographs and memorabilia that convey community life in Hartford spanning more than 300 years. To learn more about the History Center, please visit www.hhc.hplct.org

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 865,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. To learn more about the library, please see www.hplct.org.