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Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV
304-258-2300 – macicehouse.org
Press Contact Only: Glenn Horr 304-258-4058

Metal Arts Star in “Forged!” Exhibit

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV—An exciting show featuring the art of metal forging opens in the main Ice House Gallery in Berkeley Springs, WV on Friday, June 2 with a meet-the-artists reception starting at 7 p.m. “Forged!: The Art of Fire and Metal” is curated by local artist Glenn Horr and displays the works of more than 20 metal artists from around the region. The Morgan Arts Council (MAC) produces the show, which runs through July 16.

Also showing in the Ice House Carr-Kelly Gallery and Hall of Dreams from June 2 to July 16 are “Wings and Other Things,” an exhibit of nature photography by Rennie Kahler, and “Reflections on a Golden Age,” oil paintings in the style of the Old Masters by Joseph Springer. Both are Berkeley Springs artists.

The “Forged!” exhibit features both functional and decorative works, including different types of sculpture and hot-forged items such as wall racks, hooks, candle holders, buckles, furniture, lamps and Colonial-style cooking items. Precious metal works such as jewelry and silver serving dishes also are on display.

“I was inspired to take up the art of forging by seeing the work that country blacksmiths did on the farm when I was a child,” said curator Horr, who has been working in metal for more than 35 years. “Today, forged metals are much more than horseshoes. There is an amazing variety of metal work being done now.”

The unique tools used in forging are highlighted in a special display within the exhibit. Visitors can get a first-hand look at how these tools are used to transform raw materials into works of art and functional objects during a “Hammer-In” on Saturday, June 24 at the Ice House Cultural Park. Metal workers demonstrate hot-forging and blacksmithing from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, West Virginia Commission on the Arts and hotel/motel tax revenues from Morgan County and Town of Bath.

Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ice House is located at the corner of Independence and Mercer Streets in downtown Berkeley Springs. For more information call MAC at 304-258-2300 or check online at www.macicehouse.org.