

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2007

Contact: Frank Juliano, GAC Executive Director, 203-622-3998
Cathie Fuhrmann, Assistant to the Director
Tatiana Mori, Staff Curator

**Mark Peyton, a featured artist in
JUST FOLKS - International Folk Art Exhibit & Sale
at
The Bendheim Gallery**

Through October 13

**Greenwich Arts Council
299 Greenwich Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830**

The work of folk artist Mark Peyton of Mars Hill, NC, is currently on view in The Bendheim Gallery of the Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Avenue, through October 13.

Peyton says he was formed by the 1960s. As a child, he used his own hair to make paint brushes. Growing up, he worked as an ad agency artist by day, living in an abandoned mansion at night with a bunch of hipsters. He protested the Vietnam War by rescuing a goat from slaughter, walking it across a bridge into Canada. This made the headline, "War get artist's goat."

Moving to Florida, he decided to stay awhile when a chameleon jumped onto his shoulder. Reconditioning a friend's house, he filled it with huge paintings of flowers. Taking a break at a beach bar, he put his beer down and went to Peru where he survived by helping Andean Indians harvest potatoes. Feeling the chill in his stone hut, he decided it was time to return north. Back in Florida, he gathered beach glass, those collectable sand-etched, jewel-like fragments, which he incorporates into sculptures.

Today Peyton exhibits his etched glass, sea glass and mirror -fragment creations at art fairs across the country, as well as in the American Folk Art Museum in New York.

You may see Mark Peyton's work, along with many other folk artists from around the world in The Bendheim Gallery, Monday through Friday, 10 - 5 pm; Saturday, noon - 5 pm; Sunday, noon - 4 pm; and by appointment. For more information call 203-622-3998.

JUST FOLKS is made possible in part through the support of JL to Go Event Planning & Catering by JEAN-LOUIS, LeWine Shop, & Sempra Energy Trading.

The Greenwich Arts Council promotes the arts by nurturing artists and building audiences, bringing the arts to the community and the community to the arts. www.greenwicharts.org.

(photo credit: Artist Mark Peyton, by Lucy Hedrick)