

EMAIL: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:44 PM, Tiffanie Hayes

Mr. Wagner,

I just wanted to take a few moments and thank you for the collection you have on display at the Canton Museum of Art. My husband and I took our ten year old daughter last weekend, along with some friends of ours, and we drove two and a half hours each way to see this exhibit. We were not disappointed and we walked away from the museum realizing that we had just witnessed a very thought provoking and moving exhibit. We all mentioned that this exhibit needs to be promoted in more cities across the United States! That is how powerful these pieces of art are!

It has become a personal crusade for our family to walk the beaches along the south shores of Lake Erie and pick up trash. We live thirty minutes east of Toledo, Ohio and this area is very dependent on tourism. Every little bit we can do to help the environment and keep northwest Ohio clean, we're willing to help with. One thing we have noticed over the past couple of years is the increased number of deflated helium balloons and chinese lanterns that are washing up on our shores. People simply do not get the "what goes up must come down" concept and once the balloons and lanterns float out of sight, they turn around and walk away without realizing that these floating pieces of trash will fall back to the ground as litter. Animals will die after ingesting this litter and these balloons and lanterns do NOT fully decompose the way the lobbyists in Washington DC suggest they do.

I have been successful in stopping six mass littering events this summer in our local area. From mass helium balloon releases to a major chinese lantern release, which are illegal in Ohio unless you are licensed through the state, were all cancelled once these individuals were educated on the dangers of mass littering. All it takes is educating private citizens and organizations and they will often change their minds and use a more earth friendly alternative for their event. The problem is, people are releasing balloons for every reason under the sun and they're doing it on a daily basis, so it is difficult to stop every event before they take place.

I keep trying to pick a "favorite" piece from the Environmental Impact exhibit and I cannot seem to do it. Each painting or sculpture spoke volumes to those of us there that day and the messages written by the artists brought tears to our eyes. Guy Harvey's interpretations of the Gulf Oil Spill were incredible. Those poor people and animals are still dealing with the after effects of that disaster. "Apocalypse" and "Save the Seashore" were a few others that still stand out in my mind. "Driftnet" and "UV Celltree" were so true and definitive of what is happening to this planet and those that inhabit it. (I even saw a helium balloon/ribbon in the bird's nest in the "UV Celltree" painting!) I asked our ten year old daughter what "Oasis" meant to her, and she nailed it! She is the newest member of the Ohio Young Birders Club and she understands the value of protecting the environment and important habitat for birds and other wildlife.

In closing, I just wanted to thank you again for the amazing works of art at Canton's museum. We will be making a trip to Erie, PA to see this again when it travels through

next year.

Sincerely,
Tiffanie Hayes

I have attached a photo of the 26 mylar balloons & 2 latex balloons that we picked up along Lake Erie in Oak Harbor, Ohio this past August. We found these within one half mile of private lakefront beach and we only walked the beach for one hour.