Berkshire Museum Press Release
For Immediate Release: October 1, 2015
Media contact: Lesley Ann Beck, Director of Communications
413.443.7171 ext. 320; lbeck@berkshiremuseum.org

Berkshire Museum presents Pulp! A Day of Papermaking on Saturday, October 10

[PITTSFIELD, MA] – The Berkshire Museum is proud to host Pulp! A Day of Papermaking on Saturday, October 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for a day of papermaking and storytelling, while exploring the rich history of paper innovation and production in the Berkshires and learning about the science of paper making and physical properties of paper. Come hear the stories of local people employed by the mills and observe or participate in oral history interviews. The activities are included with regular Museum admission.

Visitors will be able to watch the original video featuring Crane’s innovations in papermaking, produced by Berkshire Museum as part of the Places of Invention exhibition, a project of the Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation at the National Museum of American History and supported by the National Science Foundation. The video will be shown continually through the day. Pulp! A Day of Papermaking is offered in conjunction with the Places of Invention project.

The program will recruit and invite local employees of the paper mills, past and present to participate in short, filmed interviews with local high school and college students. These interviews will be available to the public and facilitated by the staff of the soon-to-be opened Oral History Center at Berkshire Community College. The audio from interviews will be used to create short animations for use in various afterschool programs throughout Berkshire County. This program is presented in partnership with Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.
For younger visitors, activity stations will be set up in the galleries. Visitors will be able to create short flipbooks and stop-motion paper animation videos. For early learners, sensory touch tables will be provided with materials commonly used in paper making, such as wood, cotton fiber and fabrics and recycled paper pulp. Crane Museum of Paper Making will provide materials and staffing for a hands-on paper-making station taking children through the process from pulp to finished product.

**About “Places of Invention”**

A groundbreaking collaborative exhibition project, “Places of Invention,” created by the Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, is now open at the National Museum of American History. The Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate since 2013, is one of five Smithsonian Affiliate teams to have received a $10,000 grant to research and document innovation in our community. With Lemelson Center guidance, a team from the Berkshire Museum and the Berkshire Historical Society created a video highlighting Crane Company’s innovations in papermaking. The short video is now an integral part of the “Places of Invention” interactive map, accessible in-person at the National Museum of American History (NMAH) and online anywhere in the world.

Established in 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. The long-term goal of Smithsonian Affiliations is to facilitate a two-way relationship among Affiliate organizations and the Smithsonian Institution to increase discovery and inspire lifelong learning in communities across America. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at [www.affiliations.si.edu](http://www.affiliations.si.edu).

The Lemelson Center has led the study of invention and innovation at the Smithsonian since 1995. The center’s activities advance scholarship on the history of invention, share stories about inventors and their work and nurture creativity in young people. The center is supported by The Lemelson Foundation and located in the National Museum of American History. For more information, visit [http://invention.smithsonian.org](http://invention.smithsonian.org).
About the Berkshire Museum

Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $13 adult, $6 child; Museum members and children age 3 and under enjoy free admission. For more information, visit www.berkshiremuseum.org or call 413.443.7171.

In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian’s resources with the nation.

Established by Zenas Crane in 1903, Berkshire Museum integrates art, history, and natural science in a wide range of programs and exhibitions that inspire educational connections between the disciplines. American West is on view through January 3, 2016. Powered Narratives: Photographer John Stanmeyer is on view through November 8. Little Cinema is open year-round. Spark!Lab, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

# # #