Berkshire Museum Press Release
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Berkshire Museum presents the Whimsical, Wonderful Festival of Trees 2017

Annual holiday celebration opens Friday, November 17, with a Festive Preview Party

[PITTSFIELD, MA] – Tap into a world of dreams when the Whimsical, Wonderful Festival of Trees opens at the Berkshire Museum on Friday evening, November 17, 2017, with a festive Preview Party, and is on view to the public from Saturday, November 18, through Sunday, January 7, 2018. The annual event will feature more than 100 dazzling decorated trees, sponsored by businesses, schools, and community organizations in a true celebration of the holiday season. Whimsical, Wonderful Festival of Trees 2017 is proudly sponsored by Hill Engineers, Architects, Planners Inc.; Pittsfield Cooperative Bank; the Sherman Investment Group of RBC Wealth Management; and Berkshire Magazine.

Celebrate the opening of the Whimsical, Wonderful Festival of Trees at the Festive Preview Party, Friday, November 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Be among the first to explore the indoor forest of spectacular decorated trees, enjoy enchanting appetizers and alluring beverages, and more. Tickets are $50 adult, $25 child; for Museum members, $30 adult and $15 child. Children 3 and under free. Special sponsor tickets are also available. Call 413.443.7171 ext. 314 to reserve tickets.

The 2017 Whimsical, Wonderful Festival of Trees will be fueled by imagination and tales of fantasy and whimsy, with unlikely marriages of objects, strange juxtapositions, and marvelous scenes. Perhaps the trees will depict a spectacular toy land, a lighthearted
garden party, an amusing fun house, or even an enchanted castle. Or maybe they’ll display a collection of holiday keepsakes or a medley of trinkets. Each tree will be a curio cabinet unlike the next: dreamlike, surreal, and extraordinarily odd. New this year, participants will be asked to place a unique object or ornament of their choice in their tree for visitors to search for. Inspired by the childhood game of ‘I Spy,’ this year’s Festival of Trees will be a quizzical, fanciful treasure hunt for all to enjoy.

The Whimsical, Wonderful Festival of Trees will be presented in conjunction with the exhibition Morgan Bulkeley: Nature Culture Clash, a career retrospective that includes paintings, sculpture, and a site-specific installation. Berkshire-based artist Morgan Bulkeley is a visual storyteller: his colorful, complex canvases depict busy landscapes inhabited by flocks of birds, hordes of insects, and posturing humans, often punctuated by pop culture icons.

The organizations, businesses, and schools that participate in the Festival of Trees always come up with innovative and original ways to decorate their trees; this year visitors can expect to see holiday trees that celebrate curiosity and imagination, but with a quirky twist. The Festival of Trees is a significant fundraiser for Berkshire Museum every year — the proceeds benefit the education programs that provide close to 30,000 educational experiences annually. For more information on how to participate with a decorated tree, please visit berkshiremuseum.org/support/festival-of-trees-participate/ or call 413.443.7171 ext. 314.

About the Berkshire Museum
The Berkshire Museum integrates science, history, and the arts in dynamic educational and engaging programs and exhibitions for visitors of all ages. Curiosity Incubator is now on view. Morgan Bulkeley: Nature Culture Clash is on view September 29, 2017, through February 4, 2018. Little Cinema is open year-round. Lab102, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

Located in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum 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 are free. For more information, visit www.berkshiremuseum.org or call 413.443.7171.

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