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**"UNCOVERED: 9 MICHIGAN BOOK ARTISTS"**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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SOUTH HAVEN – The next exhibit at the South Haven Center for the Arts features the work of nine of Michigan’s top book artists who have created novel ways of stretching the book as an art form.

"Uncovered: 9 Michigan Book Artists" opens October 7 and runs through November 6. The exhibition is an exploration of the book form using unusual materials and shapes. The public is invited to the opening reception Saturday, October 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Center, 600 Phoenix Street, South Haven.

"People may not recognize the pieces as books," said Marcia Perry, who is co-curator with Lisa Ross-Miller. According to Ross-Miller, one of the exciting features of these books is their non-traditional use of materials. The materials range from found objects, household ingredients such as beer and garlic to music CD’s.

"The illuminated manuscript that Pam Rupps has done is really phenomenal," said Perry. "She used the materials that they would have used in the Middle Ages."

Susan Hensel incorporates whimsical elements and actual music, Perry explained, and Sam Pappas has annotated his own language of music in his books.

Each of the artists will be showing between three and six books. According to co-curator Lisa Ross-Miller, artist’s books have been around for about a hundred years. She thinks it is appropriate that the Center dedicate the Year of Books and Arts as part of its 100th anniversary celebration of the former Carnegie library that it now occupies.

"Artist’s books can take on any form that best suits the art, Ross-Miller said. So it is difficult to describe or define them. Generally, artist's books are more visual than textural," she said.

"I think it is an exciting combination of book artists because of the unusual materials used and because all the books professionally executed," Ross-Miller explained. A lot of attention has gone into the structure of the book, she noted.

All of the artists have studied book making, and they are all accomplished artists. Most of the artists have a fine arts background and have concentrated on the book as an art form.

Three workshops will be held in connection with the show. The first adult workshop is on gold leaf. Pam Rupps, who does illuminated manuscripts, will teach people how to put down gold leaf with natural materials to get beautiful effects. The 45-minute workshop will be Sunday, October 23 at