

Lock Haven University
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**LHU exhibit showcases works of noted sculptor E. George Lorio
Opening reception September 6**

The public is invited to an artist's reception in conjunction with Lock Haven University's first exhibit of the 2011-2012 season. The works of sculptor E. George Lorio will be on display in the Sloan Fine Arts Gallery from September 6 to September 30. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

The opening reception and lecture will be at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6. Visitors will have an opportunity to meet Mr. Lorio and to hear him speak about his work. There is no charge for this event.

Lorio's works are strongly influenced by his surroundings. Lorio was born and raised in New Orleans, which he describes as "a place of extremes: beauty and decay, religion and ritual, custom and iconoclasm." "The spirit of the city," Lorio says, "embraces an attitude of dispensation in the form of the annual bacchanal of Mardi Gras when the celebrations are exuberant. From that experience I acquired an excitement for visual matters, colors, forms and even artifacts; my sculptures echo those memories."

Lorio now lives in Texas. He is associate professor at the University of Texas at Brownsville, where he served as a panelist for the "Border Institute" Symposium on border issues between Mexico and the United States. Several of the sculptures which will be on exhibit in the LHU Sloan Gallery reflect the tensions and issues of the southern border towns, "a term fraught with ambiguity," says Lorio.

"Bordered Water" refers to the attempts, at times futile, to control a natural force which also poses questions related to immigration and national borders.

"Lucha Libre" (Spanish for "free wrestling") uses wrestling as a metaphor for the struggle between Mexican and American influences in the border area." The wrestlers of Mexican popular culture are costumed in nationalistic colors and seals contending in a prison-art framed diorama. These effigies stand in an imagined area delineated by the recently erected steel wall on the American side, the reinforced frontier designed to keep Mexicans out."

Lorio earned his Bachelor of Arts in Art Education and his Master of Fine Arts from the University of South Florida. His works have been exhibited in group and solo exhibits throughout the United States and Mexico. He is the winner of numerous awards and fellowships.

Lock Haven University is a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), the largest provider of higher education in the commonwealth. Its 14 universities offer more than 250 degree and certificate programs in more than 120 areas of study. Nearly 405,000 system alumni live and work in Pennsylvania.

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