

New life in old junk

Annual exhibit shows funny and serious sides

By Leslie Shaw Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA VALLEY — The Reduce, Reuse, Recycle art show is open at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and will be on display through June 3. The annual show exhibits artwork made with mostly recycled materials or found objects. Submitted art comes from both young kids and adults.

Yucca Valley residents Tanya Szabo and her 4-year-old son, Steven Szabo, were enjoying the exhibit on Thursday afternoon. Steven was particularly entranced by the metal assemblage work of Robert Lombardo, who does miniature scenes in great detail. He has two pieces in the show: “Seattle Skyline: Story of Abby’s Life and Education,” and “Wharf Scene: Self Portrait of my Significant Life Events.”



Rik Livingston submitted this closing box with a split personality called “The Wolf Within.”

This show always has a funny, quirky side. In this category find Tami Wood’s “Horn Dog,” a dog made from a trumpet, Scott Hale’s “Mother and Son,” a pair of aliens, Virginia Neal’s “Spring Ella,” a sculpture of a cute red-headed girl with a flower basket, Gail Deming’s “Watching” picture of a tree with doll’s eyes in the branches, Jean McLaughlin’s “Garden Party,” a collection of assemblage insects, Rik Livingston’s “The Wolf Within,” featuring a box with interior and exterior sides of a man’s personality, and Rebecca T. Renish’s “Trump Towers,” a colorful collection of jumbled cardboard cubes.

Some impressive serious pieces include Guillermo Valentin’s “Samurai,” a gnarled tree root sculpted into a face with wild hair. The same artist is also showing a cast paper sculpture of Leda and the swan, called “Y El Cisne le da.”

Michael Angelo Hernandez submitted two assemblage pieces depicting musical instruments, “You Can’t Touch Music But Music Can Touch You” and “Creating Art, Music and Love.” Karen Murphy’s “Desert Blue Stew” an assemblage sculpture made from rusty found objects and clay ware, and Kathi Woodard’s “Skulls: Mother and Daughter” is compiled from plastic skulls and broken pieces of jewelry.