

## ***Beyond the Humanities* Opens at World Chess Hall of Fame**

February 13, 2013 – Saint Louis, MO -- To the casual observer, the game of chess appears as a loose set of reactive movements between two individual players. But a closer look shows patterns to the game, unexpected layers of meaning, and a closely orchestrated dance between adversaries.

The work of artist Bill Smith reveals itself in much the same way. Smith weaves together seemingly unrelated subject matter – sculpture, biomathematics, video, physics, fractal geometry, diesel mechanics – to create artworks that highlight how the natural world interacts around us.

*Beyond the Humanities* is Smith's solo exhibition at the World Chess Hall of Fame and features an awe-inspiring collection of sculptures and multimedia installations. The show opens with a reception from 6-8 pm on March 7 and closes on September 13, 2013.

"*Beyond the Humanities* is probably our most risk-taking show to date. Bill is the kind of genius who isn't making art to be pretty: his pieces teach, challenge, and propel thought forward. The final work ends up being beautiful by accident," said Susan Barrett, executive director of the World Chess Hall of Fame.

The pieces in *Beyond the Humanities* illustrate how all living things have the instinct to take over or dominate their environment – much the way a chess player seeks to dominate the board.

Smith is a local artist with a national reputation. Sculptures from his solo show at the P.P.O.W Gallery in New York was described by *The New York Times* as "invoking the wonderment of science." He has also been shown at the Fabric Workshop and Museum in Philadelphia, The Chicago Cultural Center, and the Saint Louis Art Museum.

"I think of Bill like a modern-day Leonardo DaVinci. We regard as art the notebooks that Leonardo filled with scientific thought and practical applications for creative discoveries. Bill is also always pushing his art past a simply visual medium toward real-world and inspired uses," Barrett said.

### **About the World Chess Hall of Fame**

The World Chess Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization committed to building awareness for the cultural and artistic significance of chess. It opened on **September 9, 2011**, in the Central West End after moving from previous locations in New York and Miami.

The WCHOF is housed in an historic 15,900 square-foot residence-turned-business and features the U.S. and World Chess Halls of Fame, displays of artifacts from the permanent collection, and temporary exhibitions highlighting the great players, historic games, and rich cultural history of chess.

The WCHOF partners with the Chess Club and Scholastic Center to provide innovative programming and outreach to local, national, and international audiences.

For more information, visit [www.worldchesshof.org](http://www.worldchesshof.org).

**Missouri Arts Council**

*[www.missouriartscouncil.org](http://www.missouriartscouncil.org)*

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