

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**State Museum of Pennsylvania Announce Gallery Updates, Tour and a New Exhibit, *The Fine Art of Giving* for Spring 2009**


**Harrisburg, PA** – The State Museum of Pennsylvania today announced two new additions to its Industry and Technology gallery, a special “Energy” self guided tour and a new exhibit titled, *The Fine Art of Giving*.

In conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the historic accident at Three Mile Nuclear Power Plant, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s 2009 theme, Energy: Innovation and Impact, on March 28 the museum’s Industry and Technology gallery will feature test models of a Remote Reconnaissance Vehicle (RRV) and three long-handled tools that were used in the cleanup of the 1979 accident. The RRV, nicknamed “Rover,” and the three tools are examples of remote work systems that were developed to allow workers to cleanup contaminated areas without exposing them to hazardous radiation.

The Rover was developed by Dr. William “Red” Whittaker of Carnegie Mellon University. It could be outfitted with cameras, lights, radiation detectors, vacuums, scoops, scrapers, a drill, and a high pressure spray nozzle. The Rover on exhibit was not used for actual cleanup, but was employed to test attachments and to train operators.

GPU Nuclear, who operated TMI at the time of the accident, donated the Rover to The State Museum in 2000.

A self-guided Energy Tour has also been added to the museum’s second floor Industry and Technology gallery. Utilizing the gallery’s remarkable collection of rare vehicles, early machinery, household appliances, and models depicting early transportation and milling, a special brochure and directional signage will lead visitors to explore varied historic sources and innovative uses of energy in Pennsylvania and the nation. The tour is sponsored in part by



Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania.

From April 4 through June 30, 2010, The Fine Art of Giving exhibition will feature a selection of 85 paintings, sculptures, photographs, prints, and crafts, selected from the more than 400 gifts of art received between 1998 and 2008.

A tradition of giving by ordinary citizens, begun more than 150 years ago, has formed a collection of important Pennsylvania art. Although The State Museum does not receive a state allocation for the purchase of fine art, today the collection includes 7,000 works, dating from 1650 to the present. A listing of the 400 gifts will be available on the web site, [www.statemuseumpa.org](http://www.statemuseumpa.org), as well as images of art donated during the past decade, but not currently exhibited.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, located at 300 North Street, Harrisburg, is one of 26 historic sites and museums on the Pennsylvania Trail of History™ administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Individuals who need special assistance should call (717) 787-4979 or the Pennsylvania TDD relay service at (800) 654-5984. More information on exhibits and programs at The State Museum is available online at [www.statemuseumpa.org](http://www.statemuseumpa.org).