

RECYCLABLES MORPH INTO ART IN NEW EXHIBIT



MARY CONWAY
with 'Nocturne,'
made of piano keys,
hammers and sheet
music.

By Ellen Sussman

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Buttons and beads, spoons and springs, coins and can wrappers, as well as jewelry and assorted items often referred to as junk can be recycled into art.

Don't believe it? Head to the new "The Art of Recycle" exhibit opening today at the Community Performance & Art Center and have a look.

Local artist and exhibit organizer Susan Ettl proves if recyclables are seen as eco-friendly, environmentally sound and green, recyclables can also be useful and artful.

Ettl said exhibits of recyclables have been ongoing in Flagstaff for the past 12 years and she wanted to offer a novel type of exhibit for Green Valley.

"I wanted something different ... How can we utilize stuff that's already out there? It's about the environment and it's fun," she said.

Each entry had to include 75 percent of items considered recyclable, found, discarded or "junk."

One entry by Santa Rita Art League member Joan Cawthorn titled "The Cat's Meow" is made mostly from pieces of metal she found walking



'THE CAT'S MEOW' by Joan Cawthorn, is part of 'The Art of Recycle' show at CPAC.

in local desert areas.

"I used rusted construction pieces — metal bars, rusty nails, washers, bolts, weeds and

clay," Cawthorn said.

Others might see the same pieces lying in the desert, ignore them and leave them. Cawthorn's

imagination told her she could weave them together into something creative and arty.

An entry by Green Valley artist Mary Conway uses keys and hammers from an 1890s piano she found at a local garage sale, sheet music she found at the White Elephant and pieces of an old necklace wrapped in a piece of black netting. The artwork is titled "Nocturne" after the title on the top piece of sheet music.

Another entry by Green Valley artist Mary Conway uses string, thread, foil, a petal from a pine cone and colorful papers to create a collage called "Dreamscape." It's colorful while

attracting viewers' eyes to scan the piece to see what she included.

Opening today — Wednesday, April 2— with a public reception from 5 to 7 p.m., this intriguing exhibit may give new ideas on how to turn a probable throw-aways into something that's decorative, functional and maybe even a conversation piece.

The exhibit is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, one hour before performances and during show intermissions through April 30 at CPAC.

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