ULRICH MUSEUM HOSTS TED-TALK PRESENTER, SCIENCE WRITER MARGARET WERTHEIM

Crochet artist and co-founder of The Institute for Figuring to present keynote talk for exhibition, Nature’s Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention, September 13 on WSU campus

KEYNOTE TALK: Margaret Wertheim, The Beautiful Math of Coral
PRICE: Free and open to public
VENUE: WSU Campus Activities Center Theater, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260
DATES: 7 p.m., September 13, 2013
FALL PARTY: 7 p.m., September 14, 2013

WICHITA, KAN.— TED-Talk presenter, prolific science writer, and master crochet artist Margaret Wertheim finds beauty at the intersection of nature, math, and physics. Supporting the fall exhibition, Nature’s Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention, the Ulrich Museum of Art will host a keynote talk by Wertheim on The Beautiful Math of Coral at 7 p.m. Friday, September 13 at the WSU Campus Activities Center Theater. Admission is free and the program is open to the public.

With her twin sister Christine, Wertheim co-founded The Institute for Figuring in 2003 to advance the aesthetic appreciation of scientific concepts, from the natural physics of snowflakes and fractals, to human constructs such as Islamic mosaics and weaving.

Her beguilingly strange Crocheted Coral Reef project takes advantage of the congruence between the mathematical phenomena modeled by creatures of the reef and repetitive tasks such as crocheting. Armed only with crochet hook, Wertheim simultaneously draws attention to the plight of distressed coral reefs and the mathematical 3-D modeling of hyperbolic space that only crochet can accomplish. It has been exhibited around the world including at the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Wertheim has authored several books on the cultural history of physics including Pythagoras’ Trousers, a history of the relationship between physics, religion, and women; and The Pearly Gates of Cyberspace, a history of western concepts of space from Dante to the Internet. She is an Op-Ed contributor to the Los Angeles Times; and has written for the New York Times, New Scientist, Guardian, and Cabinet, an international arts and culture quarterly.

For more information about Nature’s Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention, visit:
www.ulrich.wichita.edu/naturestoolbox

For a high resolution image of Wertheim, visit:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/k65nzvzgunw3151/Margaret_Wertheim_portrait.retouched.JPG
Nature’s Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention was organized by Art Works for Change, Inc., with generous support from The Nathan Cummings Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Adobe Foundation; and the Sprint Foundation. The Wichita presentation of this exhibition is generously supported by the S.M. and Laura H. Brown Trust; Spirit AeroSystems; Richard D. Smith and Sondra M. Langel; William T. Kemper Foundation–Commerce Bank, Trustee; Commerce Bancshares Foundation; Emprise Bank; and Lee and Ron Starkel.

All Ulrich Museum programs and exhibitions are made possible in part by Wichita State University and the City of Wichita.

**Contact:**
Jessy Clonts, Public Relations and Marketing Manager
Ulrich Museum of Art
(316) 978-6462
jessy.clonts@wichita.edu

###