

My Father's Love Foundation

C/O Dale Hull
1180 Winnell Court
Petoskey, MI 49771

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Re: Visual arts exhibition, *The Marquetry of Ed Lantzer: My Father's Love*
Contact: Dale Hull, 231-347-2731

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PETOSKEY: A visitor to the My Father's Love exhibit at 438 E. Mitchell Street in Petoskey, may hear the sounds of power saws and sanding machines emanating from the back room of the gallery these days. Ed Lantzer, the artist whose work is on display there is practicing marquetry, his unique Flemish born art form, once again.

"I haven't felt this good in years, claims Lantzer. His health declined rapidly two years ago and was not doing at all, but within the last twelve months he has had his stomach removed, a new pacemaker "installed" (as he describes the process), and has become a permanent resident of Petoskey, which he describes as the best place he has ever lived. "I have met more working artists in Petoskey this year than I have known all my life. And they seem to like my work," reports Ed.

My Father's Love is a non-profit organization formed very recently to protect Ed's work and create plans for its future. To begin, the Board of Directors opened the Ed Lantzer Gallery on Mitchell Street where his life's work in marquetry is on display. Later this year, the exhibition will begin a tour of the United States.

Techniques of wood marquetry, perhaps most often described as wood mosaic, were developed in Antwerp and other Flemish centers during the early 16th century. The craft was then imported full-blown to France to create furniture of unprecedented intricacy and beauty as decorative art for Versailles and other royal palaces of Louis XIV.

My Father's Love, Lantzer's magnum opus, is a unique display of thirty, 4' x 8' wood panels, each weighing over four hundred pounds, crafted from hundreds of thousands of half-inch diamond shaped pieces of wood depicting moments in the life of Christ through a historically significant art form rarely practiced today.

The wood pieces are all the same size and shape, not quite one-half inch across, but they have been cut from more than a hundred-fifty varieties of trees, each tree offering its own unique color and grain pattern, giving the artist a pallet from which to create his unique scenes. This special marquetry exhibition, thirty years in the making, was placed in public view for the very first time last June, right here in Petoskey. It will continue to be

on display here, free of charge and open to the public, through September of 2009, at which time it begin a national tour.

“I have a new panel in mind,” says Lantzer, “but I am readying my self, physically, by creating some jewelry boxes and game boards, just to get in shape. I know that once I start working on the panel that’s in my head, I’ll be obsessed with the work until it’s complete. That’ll take months or more.”

Visitors to the gallery are welcome to view the panels and watch Ed at work on Thursdays from 9am though 4 pm; Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am through 7pm, and on Sundays from noon through four in the afternoon. The rest of the week, Ed will work alone in the back room of the gallery, cutting, sanding, and assembling his magnificent and unique pieces of marquetry.

Some of Ed’s unique creations, a number of table tops, game boards, jewelry boxes, and cedar lined chests on display at the gallery are available to the public for purchase. Interested parties may contact the organization’s Board representatives Dale Hull at 347-2731 or John Myers at 349-9003.

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Possible captions for the pix attached pictures:

Pix A:

Ed Lantzer buffing between coats of the special finish he applies to his unique work in marquetry.

Pix B:

Ed Lantzer is getting in shape, physically, for the task ahead as he begins a new panel to add to in his series of thirty panels depicting moments in the life of Christ.