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***WILD THINGS* EXHIBITION OF ANIMAL FOLK ART OPENS  
AT BRICK STORE MUSEUM**

KENNEBUNK, MAINE –With bears, moose, snakes, squirrels, fish, birds and more, The Brick Store Museum’s offers its newest exhibition, *Wild Things: Selections from Kate Manko’s Collection of American Folk Art Animals*. It will remain on view through December 29, 2007.

*Wild Things* showcases nearly 100 objects of animal folk art from the personal collection of 26-year-old Kate Manko, a dealer and collector of American folk art from Moody, Maine. Since childhood, Manko has been drawn to wildlife art in all shapes and sizes—from tin signs to intricate carvings—making this exhibition as much about folk art as it is about the art of collecting. The Museum’s executive director, Tracy Baetz, said that adults will appreciate *Wild Things* for its artistry and scope, while the fanciful animals will also undeniably attract youngsters. “I hope it provides many children with their first introduction to museums and inspires them to begin collections of their own,” she said.

The highly inventive and playful natures of the pieces reflect their makers’ desire to capture their individual characteristics and are crafted from a variety of materials. Many are based in wood but infused with imaginative details fashioned out of metal, seashells, beads, and leather. Even more unique are ones made entirely out of deer antlers, canvas, pieces of discarded oil drums, and even bottle caps. While a number of the objects were created for home and outdoor decoration, others are purely functional like rooftop weathervanes or decoys and lures to aid hunters and fisherman. Most of the works have come from Maine and date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to late 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Complementing the exhibition are a video introduction and an interactive interview component, with Kate Manko talking about her one-of-a-kind collection and explaining the significance of many of the animals seen on display.

This exhibition is made possible in part by The Brick Store Museum’s proud business partner, The Captain Lord Mansion.

*The Brick Store Museum is located at 117 Main Street in Kennebunk’s historic district and for more than seventy years has been dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the region’s rich cultural heritage. Its galleries and research archives are open to the public year-round: Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 – 4:30 and Saturdays, 10 – 1. Admission to the Museum is by donation, suggested \$5 per person. Visit [www.brickstoremuseum.org](http://www.brickstoremuseum.org) or call 207.985.4802 for further information.*

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