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For Immediate Release

NASA/UN "Sunworks" Art Exhibition to Visit Grand Junction

Wednesday, February 28, 2007 -- Six western slope area artists are represented in a new art exhibit dedicated to the Sun, will make its U.S. debut next month at the City of Grand Junction's City Hall, starting on March 26th, running for three weeks. Twenty-four artworks selected from around the world to represent the NASA-Soho projects, and United Nations' International Heliophysical Year SUNWORKS ART EXHIBITION, began its tour last week in Vienna, Austria, at the opening ceremonies of the IHY '07 year celebration.

Grand Junction was selected as the first U.S. city to "debut" the artworks in the collection, following the opening in Vienna, Austria. The six western slope area artists involved include two adults from Grand Junction, Greg Bowen, a glass blowing artist, and Elisa Murillo, a local art teacher. Greg owns Monument Art Glass on downtown Grand Junction's Main Street, and Greg created a large "pasta-dish" sized model of the Sun using molten glass. Ms. Murillo did a pastel chalk rendering of the ancient Italian astronomer, Galileo, whose appearance looks life-like.

Four students also involved are Kelsey Sloan of Grand Junction, Cheyenne Carson of Clifton, and Shelby Thomas and Alejandro Leyva, both of Montrose. All six participants represent the highest overall total of artists from a single geographic region among any state/city in the U.S. or abroad, representing the art program.

Both the NASA-Soho program and IHY want to demonstrate the relevant beauty, and science behind the study of the Sun, as viewed, imagined, and created through the eyes and hands of artists young or old from around the world. Artists' ages range from ten to adult. See the Sunworks art pieces here; <http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/sunworks/exhibit.html>

The Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture will host the exhibit in Grand Junction, which is open free of charge to the public during City Hall's normal Monday through Friday business hours, 7:30am – 5:30pm.

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