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***Aging with Attitude* Exhibition Calls on Community to Rethink Growing Older**

Ann Arbor, MI -- The Blueprint for Aging and the University of Michigan School of Art and Design will host *Aging with Attitude*, a multi-media exhibit, from March 7-28 at the Jean Paul Slusser Gallery, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd. This exhibit, part of a larger, community collaborative called the Blueprint for Aging, is free to the public and will feature art that pushes our boundaries and our horizons about what it means to age.

The Blueprint for Aging is a partnership of consumers, public, private, nonprofit agencies, and funders who are collaborating to ready Washtenaw County for what has been called “the silver tsunami”—exponential growth in the number of older adults who will make their home here over the next two decades. This “tsunami” will affect every facet of community life, and the *Aging with Attitude* exhibit is intended spark community conversations about aging.

“As a culture, we tend to think about aging in negative or sentimental ways” says Jill Kind, Director of the Blueprint for Aging, “*That’s way too narrow, limiting and boring; I’m excited that we have invited artists to challenge our assumptions and get us to think of a whole range of possibilities instead of one or two worn out images.*”

Highlighting both juried submissions of art and invited work by national artists who have focused parts of their careers on aging issues, *Aging with Attitude* will explore our individual and collective response to growing older. The exhibit will include artwork from University of Michigan students and faculty as well as local and national artists of all ages. A special feature of the exhibit involves local elementary school students who have worked with their art teachers to produce pieces with the title, “Me, When I am Old.”

Come join us as we explore, celebrate, and even complicate the concept of aging and our responses to it. *Aging with Attitude* seeks to actively engage the viewer. Follow-up workshops and brown bag lunches will give community members the opportunity to enjoy conversations of changing how we think about what it can mean to age well.

The Blueprint for Aging is an integral part of Community Partnerships for Older Adults (CPFOA) – a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, one of 8 projects nationwide selected to receive an implementation grant in May 2006. The Blueprint is also endorsed by the Washtenaw County Community Collaborative and has received major support from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation.

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