



2309 Meridian Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 647-5921
re-store.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, March 3, 2017

Media Contact: Samantha Hale, Marketing and Outreach Manager, The RE Store, samanthah@re-store.org, 360-647-5921

The RE Store announces call for artists to compete in a mystery box challenge in the Recycled Arts Resource Expo

'Second Nature: A Mystery Box Challenge' encourages artists to creatively use recycled materials to make works of art

BELLINGHAM, WA — The RE Store, in partnership with Allied Arts of Whatcom County, presents **Second Nature: A Mystery Box Challenge, a friendly competition** for local artists this **April**. As a part of **Allied Arts' 2017 Recycled Arts Resource Expo (RARE)**, participants will have access to a box of **pre-selected random reclaimed materials** from **The RE Store** to **use in creating an art piece** to be entered into a **juried contest**.

The mystery box challenge is The RE Store's way of participating in the fifth annual RARE show. Hosted by Allied Arts of Whatcom County, RARE is a two-day exhibition held April 7th and 8th in downtown Bellingham. Made up of a series of artistic events showcasing creative ways to reuse, RARE includes fun activities, like: Welding Rodeo, Trash Fashion, Recycled Art shows, Procession of the Species, Appliance Derby, and The RE Store's Second Nature: Mystery Box Challenge.

"We're delighted to be partnering with The RE Store through this spring's RARE events", says Katy Tolles, Artist Services Coordinator of Allied Arts. "The mystery box challenge is a fun way for people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved — even people who consider themselves un-artistic."

Inspired by the popular TV show *Chopped*, participants of the mystery box challenge will receive a box of mixed materials and then have two weeks to create an art piece that draws inspiration for the animals, plants and landscapes of the natural world. All items in the mystery box, including glass, ceramic, wood, metal and plastic pieces are reclaimed and recycled materials curated from The RE Store.

Second Nature: A Mystery Box Challenge is open for registration March 6 -18 for a \$30 fee that covers registration and materials. Participants may use a small amount of materials they curate themselves, but not more than 25% of the mystery box contents. Completed pieces will be displayed at Wandering Oaks Fine Arts Gallery in downtown Bellingham through the month of April.

There will be a cap of 15 participants and registration is first come, first served, so early registration is encouraged. Individuals interested in participating can visit re-store.org for an application or email samanthah@re-store.org for more information.

“As a nonprofit organization who has spent nearly 25 years building opportunities for creative reuse in our community, we look forward to RARE each year,” says Kurt Gisclair, Director of The RE Store. “We are inspired by the ingenuity that we see through all the RARE events, and look forward to a very innovative mystery box exhibition.”

For more information about the mystery box challenge, visit **re-store.org**.

#

The RE Store is a nonprofit program with a retail location in the Fountain District of Bellingham. The RE Store exists to divert as much reusable material as possible from the landfill and to build a culture of reuse in our community. The retail location features second-use building materials, vintage décor, and a facility to receive lightly used donated items. The RE Store was founded in 1993 and is a program of RE Sources for Sustainable Communities. RE Sources' vision is to see people living satisfying lives in accord with the ecosystem we depend on — generation after generation.

Allied Arts of Whatcom County is a nonprofit corporation whose vision is to enliven and promote the artistic identity within our community and make our region an arts destination and creative, vibrant place to live. They empower local artists through organized festivals and events, enriching our local schoolchildren through educational outreach programs, and working as a liaison to art enthusiasts of all ages, within our uniquely creative community.