

NEWS RELEASE

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ABANDONED GAS STATION REHABBED INTO ART PROJECT

*—Thousands of Fiber Panels From Around the World
Cover Gas Station to Make a Statement—*

SYRACUSE, NY – This weekend, a fifty-year old empty gas station will be transformed into an art exhibit to make a dramatic statement about the world's dependence on oil. The innovative "exhibit" in Syracuse, New York, utilizes more than 3,000 fiber panels created by thousands of people from 15 countries and 29 states.

Professional and amateur artists from around the world have collaborated to cover the 5,000 square feet of the vacant gas station with crocheted, knitted, stitched, patched, photographed, silk screened and collaged fiber panels.

The premier installation of the World Reclamation Art Project (WRAP), the latest endeavor of the International Fiber Collaborative, will commence on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13.

What began as a small project for visual artist, Jennifer Marsh has grown into a much bigger initiative. Recently six hundred yards of canvas were donated in preparation for the installation, 2,570 students from 17 schools (kindergarten through college) are participating and individuals from 15 different countries have become involved in the project.

"It's important that we take the necessary steps to reduce and reverse the damage we've done to the environment," said Marsh. "Through the WRAP, we can help to beautify our community *and* artistically express the need for change."

The gas station at 2301 East Colvin Street in DeWitt, New York is one of more than 200 dotted across the country that have been abandoned, marring the visual landscape of a community and creating potential health and safety hazards.

“I want to thank my sponsors, teachers, students, knitting clubs, meeting groups and family who have supported this cause and helped make this the first of many WRAPs around the world,” said Marsh.