



Artist Armand P. Arman's "School of Fishes," a sculpture made of Vise-Grips, is part of the "Tools in Motion" exhibit at University of South Dakota. COURTESY PHOTO

TOOLS IN MOTION

FAMILIAR TOOLS BECOME WORKS OF ART IN EXHIBIT

Like a school of fish, more than 400 Vise-Grips flash their silver sides, reflecting light at some angles and darkening to almost black in the twists of other positions.

But this school of tools isn't swimming anywhere. It's welded in place as a



Jay Kirschenmann
The Arts Beat

group and hung on the wall of the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings. Artist Armand P. Arman's creations is called "School of Fishes," one of

50 works based on familiar tools such as hammers, saws and wrenches, in the "Tools in Motion" exhibit.

"It must weigh about 800 pounds," says John Rychtarik, curator of exhibits, of the Vise-Grip piece. "It took eight people to lift it onto the wall."

Many artists used a variety of materials to create other pieces in the show, from wood, glass and metal to paper and stone.

The school of Vise-Grips is an eye catcher, and other works stop visitors in their tracks.

"This is the first time we've been here," says Amber Easton, who came to see the show on a recent rainy day with her husband, Jason, and son, Dempsey.

"We've really enjoyed it. I'm a big fan of art," Easton says. "And my husband is my greatest support as we attempt to do all we can to expose our son to culture in a growing electronic society."

The works in the show were selected from a collection originally owned by the late hardware-industry pioneer John Hechinger. His father started the Hechinger hardware chain in 1911.

Hechinger began collecting contemporary art related to tools to display at his company headquarters. The traveling exhibit arrived at the South Dakota Art Museum in 16 huge crates, Rychtarik says.

International Arts and Artists, a nonprofit arts service organization in Washington, D.C., organized the exhibition to trav-

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Tools In Motion exhibit from the Hechinger Collection

WHEN: Now through Oct. 28

WHERE: The South Dakota Art Museum, on the campus of South Dakota State University, on Medary Avenue and Harvey Dunn Street in Brookings

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

COST: Free

RECEPTION: 4:30 to 7 p.m. Oct. 12 with a gallery talk at 5:30 p.m.

INFORMATION: 688-5423.

el around the country.

"We hoped the exhibit might bring a different audience to the museum with something that everyone could identify," Rychtarik says. "It's not all that abstract, but it has identifiable parts that people know from experience, like a dripping faucet or garden shovels and dirt piles."

Reach reporter Jay Kirschenmann at 331-2312, or email jkirsch@argusleader.com.

The Wa
Hot
Kar
Fri & Sa
Drawing
Hot Rod Ka
Drink Spec
Valley Springs
190 Exit 410 10 Mi



Join us for

Park Place Cafe

Sunday Brunch
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

\$12.95 Featured Item
Adults • Carved Prime Rib

\$10.95 • Peel and Eat Str
Seniors • Made to Order

\$5.95 • Plus Many More
Kids 12 & Under • Breakfast and Lunch Items

We accept reservations