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Juried Arts Fest Features Over 50 Midwest Artists, Including Nationally Renowned 15-Year-Old Elmhurst Girl And 13-Year-Old Elmhurst Brother

FOREST PARK, IL—At age 15, **Luisa Castellanos** (www.pocketpalz.com) is already nationally renowned for her funky, unique niche of indie fiber plush toys, which have exhibited at galleries in Seattle, San Francisco, and even Chicago's hip **Rotofugi Gallery**, recently featured on ABC TV's 190 North. Castellanos is the youngest artist ever to exhibit at Rotofugi. Luisa and her brother, Adi who is a ceramic artist are the youngest exhibitors joining "**Forest Park Arts Fest: A Juried Show of Fine Art and Craft presented by Boulevard Fine Art and Custom Framing**" being held Saturday, September 27th and Sunday, September 28th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. along Madison Street and Constitution Court in Forest Park. Over 50 Midwest artists will be there, including Lithuanian artists Leon Oks, Irena Saparnis, and Arthur Ragauskas showcasing art diversity ranging from photography and ceramics to pottery, glass art and mixed media. Forest Park, long considered one of Chicago's most artist-friendly communities, has become a mecca for creatives, **including deedee and edee's** private label clothing designer **Deb Dworman, Jeanine A Guncheon Gallery Etcetera, Two Fish Art Glass, Boulevard Fine Art & Custom Framing** and **Chris Guillen Photography** whose work will be on exhibit at Whole Foods Café during the month of September. Unique boutiques and many antique shops round out the mix. Guncheon, one of the prominent leaders behind the Forest Park arts movement, has shown her work at two prestigious museum shows, Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show and Smithsonian Craft Show. Also showcasing their art will be local Forest Park businesses owned by artists including Chris Guillen, Frederick Bryant, Jeanine A. Guncheon. Activities for the weekend also include:

- Acoustic Music at Constitution Court from 11-5 both days.
- Children's Activities from 11-5 both days include Fiber Classes taught by Luisa Castellanos and a community mural project.
- Experience the 'Best in Neighborhood Dining' in Forest Park (2008 Chicago Tribune poll) and explore Madison Street's unique boutiques and specialty shops.

The Forest Park Chamber of Commerce & Development, the Village of Forest Park and RGL Marketing for the Arts, Inc. are hosts for this event. For more information on the Forest Park Arts Fest, please visit exploreforestpark.com or rglmarketingforthearts.com.