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Sculptor Joseph Saccio uses found objects to create works such as this one, titled "Once a Tree."

New exhibition space hosts show exploring themes of loss, renewal

Works by sculptor Joseph Saccio, a former associate clinical professor of psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine, are on exhibit now through April 24 at the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health (PRCH) and the Community Services Network (CSN).

The exhibit is the first for The Parachute Factory, which is the organization's new arts initiative and shares space with PRCH and CSN at 319 Peck St., Erector Square. An open house and artist's reception will be held Tuesday, April 1, from 4 to 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Saccio's large-scale sculptures explore themes of loss and renewal, and transformation and regeneration through the use of a wide range of natural and manufactured materials: tree roots and limbs, wood burls, cardboard pieces, Venetian blind scraps, cable ties, beads, chair caning, metal ductwork, excelsior, beeswax and plastic roofing. Saccio combines these found materials in pieces that explore the theme of death and new life and that give hints of the artist's lifelong interest in biological forms. The exhibit of Saccio's works reflect the recovery-oriented work of PRCH and CSN.

The two organizations are part of the Connecticut Mental Health Center at Yale. PRCH conducts research, training, education and policy development in the field of behavioral health. Its guiding philosophy is recovery, defined as the regaining of a person's place in the community as a way of living with and living beyond the experiences of mental illness and addiction. CSN is a consortium of 18 community-based organizations that provide a variety of behavioral health services to people throughout the greater New Haven area. The mission of the CSN is to help families and individuals enjoy meaningful and satisfying lives through the coordination of recovery-oriented clinical, housing, social rehabilitation, vocational and other services.

PRCH and CSN founded The Parachute Factory exhibit space in collaboration with the Arts Council of Greater New Haven to foster innovative, inclusive projects in the creative and performing arts as a new way to explore and express ideas of recovery and community health.

The exhibition at The Parachute Factory is open Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or by appointment. To make an appointment or for further information, send e-mail to rebecca.miller@yale.edu or kyle.pedersen@yale.edu.