Decorative Arts Challenge

During the tour of the Decorative Arts exhibit at the Thomas J. Boyd Museum, you saw many different ARTIFACTS. These ARTIFACTS, or examples of items from long ago, all had important functions.

A FUNCTION is “an activity or purpose natural to or intended for a person or thing.” For example, the FUNCTION of a blanket chest was to store everyday items and valuables for the German settlers in southwest Virginia.

But in addition to FUNCTION, the items you saw on the tour were also DECORATIVE, which means, “serving to make something look more attractive.”

Our challenge for you is to design something that has a FUNCTION and is also DECORATIVE. You can draw the item on paper, or use things you find around the house to create a model. You can also try adding a MOTIF, which is a decorative design or pattern that usually appears more than once.

Share your Decorative Arts creations with us by taking a photograph and emailing it to andrea.burton@wytheville.org, and we will post them on our Facebook page. We can’t wait to see what you make!