

BAM Biennial 2010: Clay Throwdown!

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Submission Deadline: December 31, 2009

Exhibition Dates: August 28, 2010 – January 16, 2011

DESCRIPTION & HISTORY

In Fall 2010, Bellevue Arts Museum will unveil its inaugural edition of the *BAM Biennial*, a juried exhibition occurring every two years which will focus on the work of Northwest artists and craftsmen with an emphasis on current and new work.

For each edition of the exhibition, Bellevue Arts Museum will designate a new focus, exploring, for example, a specific medium, technique, process or theme in art, craft and design. Clay is the focus for *BAM Biennial 2010: Clay Throwdown!* Artists are encouraged to take a creative approach to this material, considering both traditional expressions of ceramic art and the fringes of the medium, where concepts of art and craft merge. The exhibition is intended to encourage and recognize innovative and extraordinary work by contemporary Northwest artists and craftsmen.

Building on the tradition established by the *Pacific Northwest Annual*, first at Seattle Art Museum and then resurrected at Bellevue Art Museum in 2001 to much critical acclaim, the *BAM Biennial* will bring attention and exposure to the work of contemporary artists and craftsmen in our region and celebrate the region's distinctive character. With its focus on art, craft, and design, the competition will fill a unique niche in the Northwest arts community.

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES

December 31, 2009	Deadline to receive entries
January 2009	Selected artists announced & artists notified
August 6 – 16, 2010	Artwork arrives at BAM, delivered or shipped by artists
August 27, 2010	Biennial celebration – Award Ceremony (<i>John & Joyce Price Award of Excellence</i>)
August 28, 2010	Exhibition officially opens
October 28, 2010	Members Reception – Award Ceremony (<i>Samuel & Patricia Smith People's Choice Award</i>)
January 16, 2011	Exhibition closes
January 17 – February 16, 2011	Artists pick up work or arrange for return shipping

AWARDS

Consistent with the design of the 2001 *Pacific Northwest Annual*, two prizes will be awarded: one on the basis of curatorial selection, announced on August 27, 2010 at the Biennial Bash, and the second based on a public vote and awarded mid-way through the exhibition at the Members' Reception on October 28. The prizes are as follows:

John & Joyce Price Award of Excellence

\$5,000 cash prize plus a solo exhibition at Bellevue Arts Museum within 2 years

Samuel & Patricia Smith People's Choice Award

\$5,000 cash prize

2010 JURORS

Once the application deadline has closed, a panel of four jurors will convene to review entries and select approximately 30-40 artists to participate in the exhibition. Artists will be informed in January as to whether they have been selected, and will have approximately seven months to complete their projects and deliver them to the Museum for installation. Jurors for this round of the competition include:

Stefano Catalani	<i>Curator, Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA</i>
Namita Wiggers	<i>Curator, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR</i>
Akio Takamori	<i>Artist, Seattle, WA</i>
Bif Brigman	<i>Collector, Seattle, WA</i>

Upon installation at the Museum, Bellevue Arts Museum Curatorial Staff will review all works in the exhibition and select the winner of the *John & Joyce Price Award of Excellence*. The recipient of this award will be announced at the Biennial celebration on August 27, 2010.

In addition to the *John & Joyce Price Award of Excellence*, the *Samuel & Patricia Smith People's Choice* prize will be awarded on the basis of visitors' votes, and the winner of this award will be announced at the October 28th Members Reception. Voting for the Peoples' Choice prize will open on the evening of August 27 and continue through October 27th. Each visitor to the Museum will receive a ballot at the admission desk upon entrance which he or she may cast in the ballot box provided. All ballots will be tallied before the Members' Reception on October 28, 2010, and the award will be announced at the reception.

ELIGIBILITY & SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Eligibility will be limited to artists currently residing, working, or studying in the Northwest region, which for the scope of this project will include: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, Montana, and British Columbia. Artists may be of any age and at any level of recognition or stage in their artistic careers. Both new and established artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

Artists will be required to submit the following materials by the entry submission deadline: completed application with \$35 application fee, up-to-date resume, 10-20 images (preferably digital) representing past work with an emphasis on recently completed projects, project proposal description up to 400 words, and any supporting proposal documentation such as drawings or sketches. Proposals may be as loosely or succinctly defined as the artist desires. Artists are encouraged to submit the maximum number of images to show a cohesive body of work.

LIMITATIONS & AGREEMENT

For any single object, entries must not exceed 9' H x 5' W x 9' D and 3,000 pounds (or 300 pounds for hanging objects) without prior consultation with and written permission from Museum staff, due to gallery limitations. All work must be original, not previously exhibited, and within the scope of the submitted proposal. Bellevue Arts Museum reserves the right to reject, upon arrival, any work that differs significantly in appearance, quality, and craftsmanship from the artist's submitted proposal. All accepted artwork must remain on view for the duration of the exhibition at Bellevue Arts Museum, from August 28, 2010 through January 16, 2011. Bellevue Arts Museum shall have the right to photograph works in the exhibition and use images of all included works for promotional purposes. Bellevue Arts Museum agrees to insure all works while on the Museum's premises. Submitting work to this competition constitutes an agreement on the part of the artist with all the conditions set forth in the prospectus.

DELIVERY OF ARTWORK

All accepted entrants are personally responsible for delivery of their work for the exhibition between August 6 and August 16. Works must be received during regular business hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, unless otherwise arranged. Pickup or return shipping of artworks must be arranged within one month following the close of the exhibition on January 16, 2011. Works left at the Museum beyond that date will be stored offsite at the artist's expense. Bellevue Arts Museum reserves the right to refuse any delivery and disqualify any entry that does not comply with these specifications. All artworks will be repacked in the materials and manner in which they are received. [All deliveries and shipping arrangements should be coordinated in advance with Bellevue Arts Museum's Registrar, Ester Faizi \(esterf@bellevuearts.org\).](#)

Costs for packing and shipping, if necessary, will be borne by the artist and should be paid directly. Bellevue Arts Museum has a limited budget to assist with artists' shipping expenses. Bellevue Arts Museum will provide a reimbursement form to each accepted entrant to the competition. If interested in applying for reimbursement, artists are responsible to fill out and submit the Bellevue Arts Museum reimbursement form within one month of return shipping to receive funds up to \$250 for their expenses. Expenses beyond \$250 will not be reimbursed by the Museum and will be the sole responsibility of the artist.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the *BAM Biennial 2010* limited to clay work only?

A piece does not have to be exclusively made of clay, but must include some element of clay in the work. Clay may be interpreted broadly to include any fired or unfired work, from raw clay to porcelain.

Do I need to “throw clay” to be in the *Clay Throwdown*?

No. Any work incorporating clay in any form will be accepted.

What if I incorporate clay into my work, but I am not a ceramic artist?

You do not have to be a “ceramic artist” to participate in the *BAM Biennial 2010: Clay Throwdown!*

Will each edition of the *BAM Biennial* focus on clay?

No. Each edition of the BAM Biennial will focus on a new theme, based on a medium, technique, process or theme in art, craft and design. Examples may include but are not limited to: wood, metal, fiber, gold, turned wood, furniture, vessels, the figure, etc.

Can I enter multiple pieces or proposals?

Applications are limited to one entry per artist, however one entry may contain any number of components, as in installation work.

Should I enter a finished work or a proposal for new work?

This choice is left up to the artist, however, entries are limited to work completed in the last 1-2 years which have not been previously exhibited in the Northwest, and artists are encouraged to submit proposals for new work.

Can I receive funding to help with shipping?

A limited amount of funding is available from Bellevue Arts Museum (maximum of \$250/artist) to assist with artists’ shipping expenses. Artists will be required to pay for shipping directly and apply to Bellevue Arts Museum for reimbursement. Instructions will be provided to all entrants accepted to the exhibition. Expenses beyond \$250 will not be reimbursed by the Museum and will be the sole responsibility of the artist.

Can I collaborate with another artist?

Yes. Artists wishing to work together should submit a single entry form for consideration. All artists in a single entry are encouraged to include images of their individual and/or previous collaborative work as examples.

What is “Northwest” for the purposes of this exhibition?

Consistent with the definition established by the *Pacific Northwest Annual*, in 2001, use of the term “Northwest” for this exhibition will include Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, Montana, and British Columbia. Artists currently residing, working, or studying within any of these states or provinces are eligible to apply.

Will my entry materials be returned to me?

Entry materials will be retained by the Museum unless return is specifically requested. To have materials returned, entrants must indicate on their materials that they would like them returned and provide a self-addressed stamped envelope of appropriate size.