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ART | CRAFT | DESIGN
BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

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Books turned into sculptures

The Book Borrowers:

Contemporary Artists Transforming the Book

On view February 24 – June 14, 2009

Bellevue, WA – A book can be many things: a physical object, a source of knowledge, a cultural artifact, a compilation of ideas. From each volume, layers of meaning and subtext can be mined: not only from the words and images contained within the book, but from the subtle design elements, the materiality of its pages and spine, and its symbolic value as a recorder of the knowledge and progress of humanity. From **February 24 through June 14, Bellevue Arts Museum** features a unique group exhibition of artists turning books into sculptural works.

As the first major exhibition of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, **The Book Borrowers** highlights works from 13 locally, nationally and internationally renowned contemporary artists working with the book as a sculptural medium. Over 30 new or recent works will be on view. Each piece is a sacrifice, a destruction of one sacred object to give birth to another. Through their alluring, conceptually rich and skillfully executed transformations, the artists tap into our deep psychological attachment to these objects while questioning and expanding the ideas they represent and the value of the objects themselves. In a time when most reading is done on a computer screen, this exhibition focuses on the sensual physicality of the printed form.

Featured artists include: James Allen (WA), Noriko Ambe (NY), Gary Berg (WA), Long-Bin Chen (NY), Casey Curran (WA), Brian Dettmer (GA), Alan Corkery Hahn (WA), Jenn Khoshbin (TX), Jane Lackey (WA), Guy Laramée (Canada), Jacqueline Rush Lee (HI), Georgia Russell (UK) and Yuken Teruya.

This show is part of **Bellevue Arts Museum's** ongoing exhibition series, **Material Evidence**. **Material Evidence** addresses the fertile convergence of materials and ideas in giving both form and meaning to the artwork. The Northwest artists featured in this series share an intense dialogue with the material, which in their hands is celebrated as both physical means to an imagery and, at the same time, the very subject matter of the often labor intensive process of creation

For more information on this exhibit and other Museum-related programming, please contact Tanja Baumann (see contact information above). To download high resolution images, please go to http://www.bellevuearts.org/about_us/press.htm (password required).

The Book Borrowers: Contemporary Artists Transforming the Book has been organized by **Bellevue Arts Museum** and curated by **Nora Atkinson**.

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of art, craft and design through exhibition, educational programs and partnerships, emphasizing the work of regional artists. www.bellevuearts.org