

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bellevue Arts Museum Presents
Ed Pien, Haven
September 26, 2007 – January 20, 2008



Bellevue, WA - Bellevue Arts Museum premieres the large-scale installation *Haven*, by Toronto-based artist Ed Pien, on view **September 26, 2007 - January 20, 2008**.

***Haven:** a safe place, a place of refuge, sanctuary. It is a highly desired space and for many, this site seems virtually unattainable. – Ed Pien*

Created for display at Bellevue Arts Museum, *Haven* is Ed Pien's most challenging and complex piece yet. Comprised of interlocking cylindrical structures of delicate hand-cut and ink tinted Shoji paper, *Haven* is a maze. On a monumental outer layer, veins spread out from a human torso and become wild, tangled foliage. Inside, layers of imagery unfold to reveal homing pigeons, human figures climbing in trees, and a forest canopy. Video projections and sound elements complete the installation, transforming the gallery space into a mesmerizing environment.

The installation draws upon a host of allusions: the labyrinth as metaphor of the inner and outer journey of human existence, the forest as locus of change and challenge, and the body as both the ultimate home for every human being, and as a place of vulnerability. *Haven* invites the viewer to explore the cultural and social implications associated with sense of place, and concocts an ambiguous blend of conflicting references. Even as the warmth of the lacework creates a tranquil familiar space, a sense of disorientation is delivered by the live feed of a camera, drawing reference to the surveillance circuits constantly protecting us while violating our privacy. As the artist states, “The installation does not pretend to create such a space that promises to offer protection and solace. Instead it is an invitation to reflect on the need for such spaces to exist -- given the fact that many parts of the world are besieged by unrelenting upheaval and violence.”

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Ed Pien moved to Canada at the age of 11. In both his life and his art, Ed Pien bridges two cultures, and his images draw on traditions and innovations from both the East and the West. Pien studied at Queens University in Venice, Italy, later receiving his BFA from University of Western Ontario (1982), and his Master of Fine Arts from York University, Toronto (1984).

He has exhibited nationally and internationally, in venues that include The Drawing Centre, New York; The New Paradise, Taipei; La Biennale de Montréal; W139, Amsterdam; Contemporary Art Galley, Vancouver; Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto; Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris; Middlesbrough Art Gallery, UK; Parkhaus, Berlin; Museo Ex-Convento del Carmen, Guadalajara; Centro Nacional de las Artes, Mexico; Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal.

Ed Pien’s work is in the collections of the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, the Hamilton Art Gallery (Hamilton), the Kamloops Art Gallery, the Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo, Costa Rica, Museum London, University of Toronto Hart House, Vancouver Art Gallery, Walter Philips Gallery (Banff) and the Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

This exhibition was organized by Bellevue Arts Museum and was made possible in part through the generosity of
4 Culture and Artsfund.

Related Events:

Thursday, October 18

Member’s Reception – Reception, Rendezvous & Review

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Director of Bellevue Arts Museum cordially invites you to celebrate the opening of the fall exhibitions.

6-8 pm

Kindly reply by Friday, October 12, 2007

(425) 519-0750 or rsvp@bellevuearts.org

Reception complimentary for museum members only

New members may join at the door

\$10 suggested donation for non-members

Friday, October 19

Artist Demonstration and Hands-on Workshop with Ed Pien

Ed Pien creates large-scale room installations that transform the space into a new environment. Check out this interactive presentation as the artist explains and demonstrates his technique through ink drawing incorporating visitor participation. Demonstration is free. Afterwards, Pien will lead participants in a two-hour workshop where they will cut designs out of reflective material and iron them onto a t-shirt. Participants in the workshop are asked to provide their own shirt. Workshop carries a small fee. Please reserve your place by informing the museum admissions staff.

Bellevue Arts Museum

4:30-5:30 pm - Free Demonstration

6-8 pm - Workshop

Workshop \$20 (ages 10 +) - includes materials fee

Bellevue Arts Museum

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of the fine art of craft and design. An emphasis is placed on regional craft artists as part of the national and international conversation on fine craft and design. Bellevue Arts Museum is located at 510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004. The Museum's main information line is (425) 519-0770 and website is www.bellevuearts.org

For more information: Renate Raymond, Bellevue Arts Museum, (425) 519-0754 or
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