

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ART | CRAFT | DESIGN  
**BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM**

**The fluidity of glass. Capturing a transient moment at Bellevue Arts Museum.**

### *Etsuko Ichikawa: Traces of the Molten State*

On view October 4, 2008 – March 8, 2009

**Bellevue, WA** – This fall **Bellevue Arts Museum** is excited to present *Traces of the Molten State* by emerging Seattle-based artist Etsuko Ichikawa. On view from **October 4, 2008 through March 8, 2009**, this solo exhibition is comprised of two large-scale, site-specific installation pieces featuring Ichikawa's signature "glass pyrography" in conjunction with glass and video components. The two installations will be on display in the Museum Forum and the Pilchuck Glass School Gallery.

With her unique "glass pyrograph" technique, Ichikawa is able to "draw" with molten glass – utilizing fire and smoke emitting from the liquid glass as charred traces of her fluid movements over paper. "Through my work, I am interested in investigating what lies between the ephemeral and the eternal. Moment and memory, absorption and evaporation, light and shadow," states Ichikawa. "[Glass pyrography] is one way to eternalize a fleeting moment, while leaving evidence of the material origin and imprinting a process of its transformation in the work."

Both site-specific installations will offer a unique impression on the viewer that conforms to the two distinct exhibition spaces. The light and airy Forum will feature the large-scale *Traces of the Molten State*, comprised of glass pyrography and video projection, while the darker and more intimate space of the Pilchuck Glass School Gallery will house *Walk with Mist*, a room-sized installation of glass pyrography, hand blown and etched glass and video projection.

Born in Tokyo, Japan, Etsuko Ichikawa has resided in the US for the last decade. Ichikawa received her BFA in Painting from the Tokyo Zokei University in 1987, and later attended the Tokyo Glass Art Institute from 1991 - 1992. Her work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the US and internationally, and can also be found in public and private collections.

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.

*Etsuko Ichikawa: Traces of the Molten State* is organized by Bellevue Arts Museum.

For more information on this exhibit and other Museum-related programming, to schedule an interview with the artist or to receive press images, please contact Tanja Baumann (see contact information above).

**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.**

510 Bellevue Way NE | Bellevue, WA 98004 | 425.519.0770 | [www.bellevuearts.org](http://www.bellevuearts.org)

**Events accompanying the exhibition:**

**Friday, October 3, 2008, 6:30 pm**

**Free First Friday Lecture Series with Etsuko Ichikawa**

Come celebrate the opening of our spring exhibitions featuring three Northwest artists!

Free

**Friday, November 7, 2008: 6:30 pm**

**Studio Tour and Artist Demonstration with Etsuko Ichikawa**

Watch artist Etsuko Ichikawa as she creates some of her unique glass pyrographs at a local glass blowing studio. Ichikawa will demonstrate and explain her technique and lead visitors on a facility tour. Visitors are responsible for their own transportation. Event takes place at Viscosity Studio in Seattle's Columbia City Neighborhood.

5720 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118

\$15 members/\$20 non-members

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