

PRESS RELEASE

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Bellevue Arts Museum Presents
Gord Peteran: Furniture Meets Its Maker
Furniture That Crosses Boundaries
September 13 - December 9, 2007

“People say, ‘what’s that?’ So I say ‘that’s furniture, not sculpture,’ and see what they do next.”
— Gord Peteran

Bellevue, WA- Bellevue Arts Museum presents *Gord Peteran: Furniture Meets Its Maker* on view **September 13 - December 9, 2007**. The exhibition is a thought-provoking show of more than 20 vivid and compelling pieces of furniture, created by one of the most innovative young artists working in North America today. Function is often thought to drive furniture design, but what if someone creates a table that doesn’t hold objects, or chairs not made for sitting?

Gord Peteran, an artist who lives in Toronto, has achieved a boundary-crossing career, opening up the category of furniture to an unprecedented range of psychological and conceptual content. Sometimes his means are disarmingly simple; his *A Table Made of Wood* was cobbled together from scraps on his workshop floor. At other times he utilizes craftsmanship of the highest order, as in *100*, a precisely machined table that disassembles into a carrying case like that used for a rifle. Other objects capture the playfulness that is obvious in many of his works, such as *A Little Table*,” a single joint that is, as Peteran puts it, “just approaching” being a table. “A little table — not a lot” remarks the artist about the toppled-over, one-legged, lopsided piece. In all cases, Peteran’s work addresses the traditional role of furniture, while at the same time subverting it. Even the titles for his pieces are noncommittal such as *Untitled So Far*, describing a Duchamp-esque piece of turned wood covered in red leather and stitched on the sides, creating a cocoon-like form.

“The found object is a good place to start with Gord Peteran. That, after all, is where he often starts. A rickety ladder-back chair from a dumpster, a pile of scrap wood, a pencil, a heap of twigs: these are some of his raw materials.” Glenn Adamson from his essay “Undertaker, Gord Peteran and the Black Art of Furniture Making.”

The exhibition is accompanied by a striking catalog that is as unique as the showcase of the work inside. The catalog evokes an artist's journal with a variety of textured and tactile paper, color and black and white photographs and illustrations, and contributions from David Gordon, David Dorenbaum, Glenn Adamson, Gary Michael Dault and the artist himself available in the Museum Store.

This exhibition is organized by the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Chipstone Foundation with generous support from The Windgate Charitable Foundation. It includes a national tour and is guest curated by Glenn Adamson, Head of Graduate Studies, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and coordinated at the Museum by Sarah Fayen, assistant curator, Chipstone Foundation.

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

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