

PRESS RELEASE

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(high resolution images and captions available upon request)

22 Larger than Life Sculptures Take Root at Bellevue Arts Museum!

Bellevue, WA - Bellevue Arts Museum is pleased to announce *Material Terrain: A Sculptural Exploration of Landscape and Place* on view **January 17, 2007** through **May 4, 2008**. *Material Terrain* is a traveling exhibition that features indoor and outdoor (in front of the museum, inside the museum and up on the roof) contemporary works by eleven artists who employ diverse materials and techniques to address the uneasy balance between the natural and constructed environment.

Probing myriad associations to landscape and place, the artists reveal the fantasy of nature as a place of retreat and wonder; nostalgia for a pristine pre-industrialized landscape; and desire and eroticism evident in cycles of cultivation, production and consumption. By employing richly symbolic objects and installations, the artists in *Material Terrain* reveal complex affiliations to the environment. Through exposing what partnerships are forged, they allow us to consider the variety of ways in which we view ourselves in the context of nature.

Today, sensory experiences are more likely to come from electronic media rather than directly experiencing the landscape and its soil, stone, vegetation, water, sky and sound. What collective effects this widening chasm will have are difficult to predict. The scientific advances that allow for genetic engineering and modification of species, the distinct advocates for conservation, farming and logging, and the intense emotion that such issues provoke, reveals that our relationship with the planet is as urgent as it is complex. The artists presented in *Material Terrain* address these provocative questions. Whether through crafting exquisite sculptural forms, imbuing work with irony or danger, or representing nature with startling verisimilitude, the selected artists create a malleable terrain that attests to nature's astonishing power and vitality.

Bellevue Arts Museum is the second to the last venue to show this exhibition, which continues on its national tour to Yellowstone Museum, Billings, MT, July 1, 2008 – October 31, 2008.

According to Stefano Catalani, Curator of Bellevue Arts Museum, “Material Terrain provides a very contemporary point of view of 11 significant artists on the relationship between nature and man. What intrigues me is that this connection is presented as symbiotic rather than confrontational or difficult. Therefore, the sculptures in Material Terrain explore the relationship between art and nature as being voluptuous, sensuous, organic and architectural. The works reflect the assimilation in contemporary art of forms and structures as well as narratives and metaphors drawn from nature.”

International Arts & Artists in Washington, DC, is a non-profit arts service organization dedicated to promoting excellence in the arts – in all disciplines, styles and media. IA&A enriches cross-cultural understanding through its collaborations with museums and cultural institutions, showcasing artists and arts movements in traveling exhibitions to and from the US, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. In addition to its traveling exhibition program, IA&A’s Design Studio produces a variety of print and multi-media material to enhance promotion of the arts. The USArts International Training Program arranges training placements at arts related institutions for undergraduates, graduates and young professionals from around the world.

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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