

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

April 30, 2008

Contact: Tanja Baumann, Director of Marketing & PR  
425.519.0759 or [tanjab@bellevuearts.org](mailto:tanjab@bellevuearts.org)

**Bellevue Arts Museum presents**  
***Sherry Markovitz: Shimmer***  
***Paintings and Sculptures 1979 - 2007***

**May 22 – September 7, 2008**

**Bellevue, WA** – Bellevue Arts Museum presents **Sherry Markovitz: Shimmer, Paintings and Sculptures 1979 - 2007**, a mid-career retrospective of the renowned Seattle-based, mixed-media artist. On view **May 22 through September 7, 2008**, the exhibition is comprised of 41 pieces: 29 sculptural works (10 dolls, 5 gourds, 14 animals) and 12 paintings.

Distinguished for her evocative **beaded assemblages, drawings and paintings**, Markovitz intricately weaves through various themes and materials in her multi-dimensional work. The artist is perhaps best known for her beaded, richly-adorned papier-mâché animal head trophies and dolls, which explore the realms of human expression, art and craft, life and death, and metaphors of gender and identity. Her prominent use of beads as a form of expression crosses cultural boundaries, touching on their historical and symbolic use – functional, ceremonial and spiritual – around the world.

In a recent interview, Markovitz expresses, “I can’t get away from the beads and the many other small items I attach to cover the surface of an object. There is a latitude but consistency to beadwork. Age and transformation are implicit in their shiny brilliance and beauty. Opacity, cut edge, sheen, transparencies, tones, and variation all come into play. **Beads on the taxidermy forms brought craft and sculpture together for me.**” As she explains, “The magic enters through the sensuousness of the materials.”

An **Artist Talk** with Sherry Markovitz will be held on Friday, July 11 at 6:30 pm as part of Bellevue Arts Museum’s newly launched **Free First Friday Lecture Series**.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Markovitz received her BA in Ceramics and Art Education at the University of Wisconsin, and a MFA in Printmaking from the University of Washington. Markovitz’s works are featured in numerous public and private collections, including: The Corning Museum of Glass, NY; American Craft Museum, NY; Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC; John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI; Seattle City Light 1% for Art Collection; Junior League, Seattle; Seattle Art Museum; and Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA; among others.

**Sherry Markovitz: Shimmer, Paintings and Sculptures 1979 - 2007** has been organized and distributed by the Museum of Art/Washington State University, Pullman, WA. The accompanying book to the exhibition, **Sherry Markovitz: Shimmer** by Chris Bruce and Josin Inanco-Starrels, is available in all major bookstores.

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).

**About Bellevue Arts Museum**

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest’s center for the exploration of art, craft and design through exhibitions, educational programs and partnerships, emphasizing the work of regional artists.

## Events and classes accompanying the exhibition:

### Thursday, May 29

#### Members Reception & Lecture

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

Reception: 7 - 9 pm

Lecture by Matthew Kangas - Sherry Markovitz: Hybridity and Dislocation.

Lecture: 6 - 7 pm

Free for members/\$10 suggested donation for non-members. New members may join at the door.

RSVP by calling 425.519.0750 or email [rsvp@bellevuearts.org](mailto:rsvp@bellevuearts.org). Please leave your name, number of attendees and indicate lecture, reception or both.

### Saturday, June 28

#### Paper Dress/Clothing Making with Sherry Markovitz

Participants in this workshop will have the opportunity to create clothing and dresses reminiscent of antique 19<sup>th</sup> century originals for paper dolls. The artist will lead visitors on a tour of her exhibition to provide the foundation for inspiration and provide an overview and demonstration. Most of the time will be devoted to participants experimenting with materials and creating their vintage-style clothing. This is a great opportunity for bridging generations between kids, parents and grandparents. Class size maximum: 15.

Ages: 12+, unless accompanied by an adult

10 am - 2 pm

\$30 members/\$40 non-members (supplies included)

### Friday, July 11\*

#### Free First Friday Lecture Series: Sherry Markovitz - Adornment, Beads and Mixed Media Sculpture 2008 Theme: Northwest Artists

Join featured artist Sherry Markovitz, currently showing on the third floor, as she leads a walking tour of her work.

Bellevue Arts Museum

6:30 - 7:30 pm

FREE; Sponsored by 4Culture

\*Bellevue Arts Museum is closed on July 4, thus Free First Friday will be celebrated on July 11.