

A Personal Appeal from NW Artist Patti Warashina



It has taken me a lifetime to develop the skills as an artist and craftsperson to be able to bring my ideas and interpretations to fruition. My career has been influenced and intertwined with [Bellevue Arts Museum](#) for (dare I say...) fifty years. Most recently, my piece *Gossipmongers* was included in [BAM Biennial 2010: Clay Throwdown!](#) I have personally experienced how BAM acts as an incubator and stimulus for artists; BAM understands the lifelong creative process, and supports artists by featuring them at different points in their career. Its commitment to artists and bringing art to the public has helped put BAM and the Northwest on the map as a flourishing arts and craft scene.

I first became acquainted with BAM as an art student in the 1960s through Bellevue Arts and Craft Fair (what is today the [Bellevue Arts Museum ARTSfair](#)), which attracted professional craftsmen from all over the Northwest each summer. My UW art professors, who sold their own work at the fair, encouraged advanced students to submit work to these juried exhibitions. It was a way to “test the waters,” exposing our work to the public as well as experiencing the marketplace. Fellow student Fred Bauer and I got accepted and shared a booth at the fair. I was invigorated by the opportunity to meet and interact with so many skilled artists, including ceramic luminaries I had read about in my studies. This was a pivotal experience for me as I made the transition from student to working professional, thereby making my art career a reality.



I was a frequent visitor of BAM after its founding in the 1970s. I can remember walking into those calm, serene galleries. Seeing creative handmade objects in clay, wood, metal and other media in this sophisticated atmosphere mesmerized and fascinated me; it was an affirmation of the work I was pursuing.

My connection with BAM continued when Lamar Harrington became BAM’s Executive Director in the 1980s. I remember her encouragement and exuberance as she promoted, championed and brought attention to craft artists of the Northwest. Since that time, I have watched the Museum change and grow to its present location. BAM and its succeeding leaders continue to be crucial in building, supporting, promoting and believing in the careers of many Northwest artists. Through lectures, exhibitions, live demonstrations and symposiums, BAM encourages dialogue between artists and the community.

Bellevue Arts Museum serves an important role, not only as a cultural hub in our growing community, but with a reach extending to the national and international scene. I ask you to generously support this vital institution and be a part of BAM as it continues to put our region on the map as a place of art, skill and creativity. [Please make your donation to BAM today!](#)

Warmly yours,

Patti Warashina

EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Your gift helps secure matching funds from Berger Family Fund.

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Online at www.bellevuearts.org | By phone to 425.519.0752
By mail to Bellevue Arts Museum, Attn: Marsha Wolf
510 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

ABOUT PATTI WARASHINA: During her distinguished career, Patti Warashina has received many awards including Watershed Center for Ceramic Art Legends Award, Washington Governor’s Arts Award, UW Distinguished Alumna Award, Artist Trust Lifetime Achievement Award and grants from National Endowment for the Arts. Her work is included in the collections of Smithsonian, Museum of Art and Design New York, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, National Museum of Modern Art Japan and many others.