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BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

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Bellevue Arts Museum announces selected artists for BAM Biennial

BELLEVUE, WA – Bellevue Arts Museum is pleased to announce the artists who have been selected to participate in the inaugural edition of the **BAM Biennial**. The **BAM Biennial** is a new, juried exhibition series that brings attention and exposure to the work of contemporary artists and craftsmen in the Pacific Northwest.

More than **170 proposals were submitted** to this year's contest, which is focused on the theme of *clay*. Submissions were reviewed by a panel of four jurors comprised of **Bif Brigman**, collector (Seattle, WA); **Stefano Catalani**, Curator, Bellevue Arts Museum (Bellevue, WA); **Akio Takamori**, artist (Seattle, WA) and **Namita Wiggers**, Curator, Museum of Contemporary Craft (Portland, OR). "We were very impressed by the quality and range of the submissions and are excited by the enthusiasm with which the ceramics community has embraced this new opportunity," says Catalani. **34 applications have been selected** to be included in the final exhibition, entitled **BAM Biennial 2010: Clay Throwdown!**, scheduled for **August 28, 2010 – January 16, 2011** at Bellevue Arts Museum. Two cash prizes of \$5,000, as well as the opportunity of a future solo exhibition at **BAM** will be awarded during the run of the exhibition.

The participants in **BAM Biennial 2010: Clay Throwdown!** are:

Chris Antemann (OR), Nicholas Bivins (MT), Nathan Craven (MT), Daniel Duford (OR), Sean Erwin (MT), Robert Fornell (WA), Carol Gouthro (WA), Damian Grava (WA), Heidi Preuss Grew (OR), Charles Krafft (WA), Cynthia Lahti (OR), Kate MacDowell (OR), Paul Mathieu (BC), Sequoia Miller (WA), Saya Moriyasu (WA), Yuki Nakamura (WA), Richard Notkin (MT), Nicholas Nyland (WA), Arun Sharma (WA), Ken Shores (OR), Mike Simi (WA), Kevin Snipes (MT), Dirk Staschke (BC), Brendan Tang (BC), Timea Tihanyi (WA), Tip Toland (WA), Kathy Venter (BC), Jamie Walker (WA), Jason Walker (WA), Patti Warashina (WA), Ben Waterman (WA), Gwendolyn Yoppolo (MT).

"Fostering both emerging and established artists from the Northwest is a key commitment of BAM," says Curator **Stefano Catalani**. "The **BAM Biennial** is a great opportunity to bring to light some of the most talented artists of our region."

2010 marks the inaugural edition of the **BAM Biennial**. The **BAM Biennial** is a juried exhibition series intended to encourage and recognize innovative work by contemporary Northwest artists and craftsmen. Participation is limited to artists residing, working or studying in the Northwest region, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, Montana and British Columbia. Artists may be of any age and at any level of recognition or stage in their artistic careers. For each edition, Bellevue Arts Museum will designate a new focus, exploring a specific medium, technique, process or theme in art, craft and design. With its geographic and artistic focus, the competition fills a unique niche in the Northwest arts community.

About Bellevue Arts Museum

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of art, craft and design. A leading arts center on the Eastside, **BAM** celebrates regional, national and international artists working in a broad range of craft media, including ceramics, fiber, metal, wood and glass. The Museum also offers a unique array of free or low-cost educational and community programs such as artist demonstrations, lectures and workshops as well as a variety of engaging and fun hands-on kids activities. The **Bellevue Arts Museum artsfair**, the largest and most prestigious arts event in the Pacific Northwest attracting over 350,000 visitors, is held annually in July. **BAM** is located in the heart of downtown Bellevue, provides free parking and is wheelchair accessible. www.bellevuearts.org

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