

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2010

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

## Nathan Craven announced BAM Biennial People's Choice Award Winner

**BELLEVUE, WA** – Bellevue Arts Museum is pleased to announce Nathan Craven as the winner of the inaugural *BAM Biennial Samuel & Patricia Smith People's Choice Award*. The race for this prestigious \$5,000 award began on August 27<sup>th</sup>. During the following two months, Museum visitors had the unique opportunity to personally pick their favorite *BAM Biennial 2010: Clay Throwdown!* artist. With over 30 participating artists and an extensive range of contemporary ceramic works, the choice was not an easy one; yet over 2,000 visitors cast their votes. The winner was finally revealed at a recent Members' Reception.

Originally from Ogden, UT, Nathan Craven ventured into ceramics as a junior in high school in order to make up credits after flunking out of calculus. He eventually earned his BFA in ceramics from Weber State University (2005) and his MFA in ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Design (2008). Craven recently finished a residency at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, MT, and is now a resident at the Roswell Artist in Residence program in Roswell, NM. Included in the *BAM Biennial 2010: Clay Throwdown* exhibition is his playful, large-scale wall installation, *Kosmeo Wall*. Comprised of over 17,000 individual ceramic pieces, the artist specifically created the piece for this landmark exhibition and personally oversaw the elaborate installation process at the Museum.

### About *BAM Biennial*

*BAM Biennial* is a juried exhibition that occurs every two years starting in 2010. It brings attention and exposure to the work of contemporary artists and craftsmen in the Pacific Northwest. For each edition, the Museum designates a new focus, exploring a specific medium, technique, process or theme in art, craft and design, the Museum's artistic focal point.

Submissions to the 2010 edition were reviewed by a panel of four jurors comprised of Bif Brigman, collector (Seattle, WA); Stefano Catalani, Director of Curatorial Affairs/Artistic Director, Bellevue Arts Museum (Bellevue, WA); Akio Takamori, artist and professor of ceramics, University of Washington (Seattle, WA) and Namita Wiggers, Curator, Museum of Contemporary Craft (Portland, OR).

*BAM Biennial 2010: Clay Throwdown!* is organized by **Bellevue Arts Museum**, curated by Stefano Catalani and is made possible by **The Boeing Company, John & Joyce Price** and **Samuel & Patricia Smith**.

### About Bellevue Arts Museum

**Bellevue Arts Museum** is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of art, craft, and design. **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 an average of 350,000 visitors, is held annually in July. **BAM** is located in the heart of downtown Bellevue, provides free parking and is wheelchair accessible.

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