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BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

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The psychology and perception of value

Lisa Gralnick: The Gold Standard at Bellevue Arts Museum

On view March 18 - August 1, 2010

Bellevue, WA – *The Gold Standard*, on view at **Bellevue Arts Museum** from **March 18** through **August 1, 2010**, is Lisa Gralnick's most recent body of work, spanning over the last seven years. A metalsmith by trade, Gralnick explores the relationship between gold's lore and history as an artistic medium and the function it serves in today's world as a commodity. Thought-provoking and incredibly well-crafted, the artist's jewelry and sculptural works descend deep into the psychology and perception of value.

The Gold Standard is a series comprised of three parts. In *Part I: Commodification and Sensible Economy*, Gralnick casts recognizable commodities and objects in 18k gold and plaster. The amount of gold used on each piece represents the monetary value of the depicted object. *Part II: Phenomenology and Substantialism*, was borne out of the artist's need to recycle gold from discarded jewelry and objects she collected. Gralnick "recorded" these objects before melting them down by casting them in plaster, leaving an eerie ghost of each object, sacrificed in order to fabricate a new creation. "I am fascinated by the endless cycle of matter, and of the cultural history that has evolved because of both the destruction and creation of objects," Gralnick says about her work. In *Part III: Transubstantiation and the Historicized Object*, the artist employs the recycled gold to create an ironic collection of objects with invented histories – genuine forgeries informed by her own history and her fascination with times past. With each section, the artist delves further into the unique aspects of value – both personal and societal.

Lisa Gralnick completed her BFA in 1977 from Kent State University and earned her MFA from State University of New York, New Paltz with a focus on gold and silversmithing in 1980. She served as the head of the Metals Program at Parsons School of Design in New York City (1991 - 2001) before she accepted her current position as Professor of Art at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her work can be found in many permanent collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY), Renwick Gallery (Smithsonian Institution), Museum of Arts and Design (NY), Boston Museum of Fine Arts, American Craft Museum (NY), Racine Art Museum (WI), Mizuno College of Jewellery (Japan) and Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam).

Lisa Gralnick: The Gold Standard is organized by Bellevue Arts Museum and curated by Nora Atkinson. This exhibition has been made possible by The Rotasa Foundation and Art Jewelry Forum.

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 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

For more information on this exhibit and other Museum-related programming, please contact Tanja Baumann (see contact information above).