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ART | CRAFT | DESIGN
BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

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Bellevue Arts Museum celebrates contemporary fiber art

The Mysterious Content of Softness on view February 4 - June 26, 2011

Bellevue, WA – Bringing together 11 national and international artists in various stages of their careers, **The Mysterious Content of Softness** explores the transformative power of fiber and its connection to the human body. Fiber techniques such as knitting, loom-weaving and crochet have long helped us fashion personal identity, whether through the clothing we wear or our cultural traditions. In fact, the very nature of fiber – sometimes soft and flexible, while at other times rough and rigid – carries with it a unique metaphor for what it means to be human.

Consisting of sculptures, installations and crafts, “the artists were selected for their emotional response to, and understanding of fiber’s potential for capturing the fluidity of life,” says Stefano Catalani, curator of the exhibition. Exploiting the durability and fragility of the medium, a number of artists address issues of gender identity, “by repositioning and humorously challenging the expectations from a medium so stereotypically feminine,” Catalani states.

Featured artists in **The Mysterious Content of Softness** include: Diem Chau, Lauren DiCioccio, Angela Ellsworth, James Gobel, Angela Hennessy, Rock Hushka, Lisa Kellner, Miller & Shellabarger, Lacey Jane Roberts, Jeremy Sanders and Nathan Vincent. The exhibition is on view at BAM from **February 4 through June 26, 2011**.

The exhibition title is inspired by a statement made by Polish sculptor Magdalena Abakanowicz, whose enormous fiber sculptures made her one of the most celebrated artists of our time. Regarding the fragility of life, Abakanowicz observed the “destruction of soft life and the boundless mystery of the content of softness” leading the artist to embrace “that which was soft with a complex tissue” as materials in her work.

Organized by Bellevue Arts Museum, curated by Stefano Catalani and made possible by 4Culture and City of Bellevue Arts Program.

Related programs:

Members' Only First Look | February 4 • 10 - 11 am

Lecture: Marci McDade, Editor of Fiberarts Magazine | February 18 • 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Members' Reception | February 24 • 6 - 9 pm

Free First Friday Lecture featuring Diem Chau | March 4 • 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Get Crafty Saturdays! Mysteriously Soft Creatures | April 2 & 9 • 1 - 3 pm

Get Crafty Saturdays! Homemade Pot Holder | May 7, 14 & 21 • 1 - 3 pm

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, 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 320,000 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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