

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Bellevue Arts Museum brings largest collection of Latin American jewelry to the U.S.**

***Think Twice: New Latin American Jewelry on view May 26 - October 16, 2011***

**BELLEVUE, WA** – Bellevue Arts Museum is excited to bring the largest comprehensive overview of contemporary Latin American jewelry to the United States. *Think Twice: New Latin American Jewelry* will be on view at Bellevue Arts Museum from May 26 through October 16, 2011. BAM is the only Northwest venue to showcase this extraordinary collection, previously only seen at the Museum of Art and Design in New York, NY.

The exhibition, featuring over 130 works by over 90 artists from 25 countries, offers a rare glimpse into the fascinating history of jewelry making in Latin America with an emphasis on the past 10 years. Objects of adornment have played a significant role throughout Latin America's history, from the spiritually potent jewelry of the pre-Columbians to the eye-catching ornaments worn by Mexican drug gangs to advertise their status and menace.

Born out of a passion for jewelry as a medium of personal and cultural expression, this new generation of artists from Central & South America and the Caribbean Islands, are working outside the field's conventions, examining how this complex relationship with physical adornment evolved – and why.

Featured artists include Mirla Fernandes, Dionea Rocha Watt and Claudia Cucchi from Brazil; Valentina Rosenthal and Walka Studio from Chile; Elisa Gulminelli, Francisca Kweitel and Silvina Romero from Argentina; Jorge Manilla, Martacarmela Soto and Eduardo Graue from Mexico; and Miguel Luciano from Puerto Rico, among others. A full-color catalogue produced by Otro Diseño will accompany the exhibition.

*Think Twice: New Latin American Jewelry* is organized by Otro Diseño Foundation for Cultural Cooperation and Development. Local presentation made possible by 4Culture and the City of Bellevue Arts Program. Media sponsor: KCTS 9

#### **RELATED PROGRAMS**

MEMBERS' ONLY FIRST LOOK: Thursday, May 26, 10 - 11am

SUPPORTING & COLLECTOR'S CIRCLE MEMBERS' RECEPTION: Thursday, May 26, 6 - 8pm

PRATT DEMONSTRATION

> ENAMELING WITH REBBECA TOMAS: Saturday, June 18, 1 - 3pm

> BASIC JEWELRY DESIGN WITH SHARREY DORE: Saturday, September 10, 1 - 3pm

GET CRAFTY SATURDAYS!

> MAKE YOUR OWN JEWELRY: Saturdays, June 18 & 25, 1 - 3pm

> BROOCH MAKING: Saturdays, August 20 & 27, 1 - 3pm

> IDENTITY BRACELETS: Saturdays, October 8 & 15

#### **ABOUT BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM**

Bellevue Arts Museum is the Pacific Northwest's center for the exploration of art, craft, and design. The Museum connects people of all ages with the extraordinary works of Northwest artists while bringing national and international collections to its community. Dynamic educational programs provide unique opportunities to connect with art and artists; past or present, experimental or established. Each July, BAM hosts one of the largest and most treasured art festivals of the year, the Bellevue Arts Museum artsfair. BAM is located in the heart of downtown Bellevue, provides free parking and is wheelchair accessible. Please visit [www.bellevuearts.org](http://www.bellevuearts.org) for details.

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