

Walter McConnell

Itinerant Edens:
A Measure of Disorder

**SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**

ON VIEW | Oct 20, 2017 – Feb 11, 2018



ART | CRAFT | DESIGN
BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

OVERVIEW

Walter McConnell: Itinerant Edens: A Measure of Disorder

A series of standing male figures, based on the portraits of intergenerational family members, are central to Walter McConnell's installations. Rendered in moist, unfired clay and sealed in terrarium-like plastic enclosures, McConnell's earthen bodies—sustained momentarily in their fictional landscapes—appear fragile and ghostly, positing impermanence as the inevitable condition of natural systems.

The figures in the installations are digitally scanned and prototyped from live models (the artist, his 83-year old father, and his nephew), representing three generations of a family. A full-body scanner, housed in the School of Human Ecology at Cornell University, produces the data files, which are CNC milled or 3D printed; from these, plaster molds are made. The figures in the installation are terracotta clays, cast and pulled from these molds, and supported by steel armatures.

Walter McConnell is best known for his moist clay installations housed in plastic enclosures that address the relationship between nature and culture. His work has been widely exhibited internationally and in venues across the US, including Denver Art Museum, MassMoca, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

DETAILS OF THE EXHIBITION

- Presented in the 2nd-floor galleries of Bellevue Arts Museum.
- The exhibition consists of a series of enclosed habitats that house wet clay sculptures. Due to the changing nature of the unfired material, the works will transform throughout the course of the exhibition.
- The exhibition offers a look at mergers between analogue and digital processes in the service of art, illustrated through the art historical device of the human figure.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Walter McConnell is a professor of Ceramic Art at Alfred University's School of Art and Design. Born in Philadelphia in 1956, McConnell studied at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (BFA Sculpture, 1979) and Alfred University (MFA, Ceramic Art, 1986). He is the recipient of numerous grants, including awards from the Bemis Foundation, The New York Foundation for the Arts, The Tiffany Foundation, The Joan Mitchell Foundation and The European Ceramic Work Center. Most recently, McConnell's sculpture has recently been featured in exhibitions at venues such as Harvard Center for the Arts; Denver Art Museum; The Philadelphia Museum of Art; Mass MOCA; and Skulpturens Hus, Stockholm, Sweden. He is represented by Cross Mackenzie Gallery in Washington, DC.

ABOUT BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

Bellevue Arts Museum is a place that ignites the mind and fuels creativity. With its unique focus on art, craft, and design, BAM connects people of all ages with extraordinary works by Northwest artists while bringing national and international exhibitions to our community. We are dedicated to conversation and helping you connect with art and artists; past or present, experimental or established. BAM is one of the nation's foremost institutions in our field and the only art museum on the Eastside.

Bellevue Arts Museum grew out of the Arts and Crafts Fair in Bellevue Square that was launched by a group of volunteers in the late 1940's. The Museum was established in 1975, and with the help of several hundred volunteers, continues to present BAM ARTSfair, which is now the largest arts & crafts fair on the West Coast. Since 2005, the Museum has focused on art, craft, and design, and has garnered critical acclaim for its unique exhibitions and educational programs. Today, BAM shows approximately 8 unique exhibits a year, highlighting the work of living, regional and international artists, and has grown to be a leading institution in its field and a vital part of the cultural landscape of the greater Seattle area.

MISSION

Bellevue Arts Museum is a leading destination in the Pacific Northwest to experience art, craft, and design. BAM engages the community through exhibitions, programs, and publications, featuring regional, national, and international artists.

VISION

Illuminating and enriching the human spirit through art, craft, and design.

VALUES

IMAGINATION AND INSPIRATION

We commit to connect and inspire through artistic discovery and educational programs.

SUSTAINABILITY

We take pride in establishing a climate of financial stability and providing an enduring platform for our audience to connect with artists and makers and their craft.

ENGAGEMENT

We interact and collaborate with artists to bring world-class art, craft, and design to the community through exhibitions, programs, and the ARTSfair.

QUALITY

We strive for excellence throughout the organization, our exhibitions, programming, and people.

RESPECT

We are committed to creating an environment that supports freedom of artistic expression and invites and embraces diverse perspectives.

WHY SPONSOR?

Bellevue Arts Museum will serve as the first West Coast venue to display a full exhibition of Walter's work. With *Itinerant Edens: A Measure of Disorder*, BAM introduces the Pacific Northwest with new insight into the ceramics processes, and an expanded appreciation of the possibilities of sculpture. Our region has a long-standing and rich tradition of ceramics. University of Washington is among the top five schools for ceramics and BAM has presented the works of many widely-acclaimed ceramics artists—all from the PNW—including: Patti Warashina, Robert Sperry, Akio Takamori, Dirk Staschke, Jason Walker, Jamie Walker, Kathy Venter, and Chris Antemann. Each display has contributed to the regional discussion about the history and future of ceramics. *Itinerant Edens: A Measure of Disorder*, is a natural progression in this trajectory as it exposes the public to new and imaginative displays and rejuvenates the conversation around ceramics and sculpture in the PNW.

The unique installation process of *Itinerant Edens: A Measure of Disorder*, at Bellevue Arts Museum requires four tons of terracotta clay and the skilled assistance of seven University of Washington (UW) Department of Art undergraduate students. BAM has partnered with UW to offer this exclusive and rare educational experience to these young aspiring artists. McConnell will work directly with students over a ten-day period, to construct and encase the figures. The free exchange between McConnell and the students will be reflected in the finished works, thus celebrating the distinct skills and artistry of their collaborators.

BAM will offer educational programs and tours surrounding the exhibition to provide a deeper understanding of the clay medium, while inviting discourse around the artist's use of the material and its future role in artistic expression. Partnering with the local organizations – Northwest Designer Craftsmen, Pottery Northwest, and University of Washington – lectures, tours, demonstrations, and panel discussions will explore the historical and cultural traditions of clay in the region, and contrasting it with the innovative and collaborative approaches McConnell employs. Youth and family programs will engage young artists in clay projects and teach the terms, skills, and processes involved in McConnell's work.

WHAT YOUR SPONSORSHIP DOLLARS DO:

Presenting *Walter McConnell: Itinerant Edens: A Measure of Disorder*, ensures that our visitors are exposed to some of the best contemporary, innovative, and influential craft in the country. Your contribution supports the exhibition and critical education programming that will be attended by over 30,000 Museum visitors this year. It also provides you a broad range of opportunities for promotion and exposure to new communities, contributing to the regional cultural and economic vitality. We hope to receive your support as we honor Walter McConnell and his influence in the field of craft.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Danielle Samuel,
Development Manager at DanielleS@bellevuearts.org.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As a sponsor of this exhibition, you ensure that BAM is able to execute and produce a fabulous show for the community. You not only ensure that the materials needed to create the artworks are available, such as four tons of clay and enclosures for each of the installations, but you also make it possible for BAM to host quality programming for the duration of the exhibition, and much more.

EXHIBITION SPONSOR — \$25,000

BENEFITS OF THIS SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

- Recognition on BAM's website as a Silver Sponsor
- Premiere placement of logo on the exhibition Title Wall in the gallery
- Premiere placement of logo on all printed materials as they relate to the exhibition
- Logo on the Donor Wall in the museum forum and Title Wall of exhibition
- Acknowledgement on BAM's social media exhibition posts
- Public recognition during all events related to the exhibition
- Up to 20 passes for an exclusive tour of the exhibition with BAM's Curator based upon your availability
- Two tickets to join exclusive tour with the artist(s) and/or Curator before exhibition opens to the public
- Five Museum passes a month to visit the exhibition
- Five tickets to events related to the exhibition
- (1) table | 10 tickets to our annual Artful Evening gala in July 2018
- Corporate Membership

CURATING SPONSOR — \$10,000

BENEFITS OF THIS SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

- Recognition on BAM's website as a Bronze Sponsor
- Placement of logo on all printed materials as they relate to the exhibition
- Logo on the Donor Wall in the Museum forum and Title Wall of exhibition
- Acknowledgement on BAM's social media exhibition posts
- Public recognition during all events related to the exhibition
- Two tickets to join exclusive tour with artist(s) and/or Curator before exhibition opens to the public
- Three Museum passes a month to visit the exhibition
- Four tickets to events related to the exhibition
- Four tickets to our annual Artful Evening gala in July 2018

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EXPERIENCE SPONSOR — \$5,000

BENEFITS OF THIS SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

- Recognition on BAM's website as it pertains to the specific event
- Acknowledgement on BAM's social media exhibition event posts
- Logo on the Donor Wall in the museum forum
- Recognition on select printed materials as they relate to the event
- Two tickets to join exclusive tour with artist(s) and/or Curator day before exhibition opens to the public
- Two tickets to events related to the exhibition
- Two tickets to our annual Artful Evening gala in July 2018

GALLERY GUIDE SPONSOR — \$3,500

Gallery Guide Sponsor helps us produce the guides for the exhibition explaining the purpose, background, and context of this exhibition for our members and guests.

BENEFITS OF THIS SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

- Premiere logo placement on 5,000 exhibition brochures
- Three tickets to events related to the exhibition
- Recognition on select marketing materials
- Recognition on BAM's Donor Wall
- Two tickets to join exclusive tour with the artist and/or Curator

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Danielle Samuel, Development Manager at DanielleS@bellevuearts.org.

SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT

In order to receive full benefits, please submit form and payment by October 6, 2017.

Level of Sponsorship _____

Name of Company/Entity _____

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PAYMENT METHOD

- ☐ Please send an invoice
- ☐ Enclosed is a check made payable to Bellevue Arts Museum
- ☐ Please charge the following credit card
 - ☐ Visa ☐ AMEX
 - ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

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