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Artist Gahan to Create Original, Interactive Installation for Bellevue Square During ARTSfair Weekend

BELLEVUE, Wash. (July 21, 2015) – Seattle-based artist Elizabeth R. Gahan will create original art for this weekend's 69th Anniversary Bellevue Art Museum ARTSfair, July 24 – 26, 2015 located at [BAM](#) and throughout the covered parking areas on the west side of Bellevue Square.

To highlight the local art community and celebrate ARTSfair, The Bellevue Collection commissioned Gahan, whose current art practice combines 2D studio art and 3D installation art, to create an interactive piece for the community to enjoy. Her work, installing this week outside in Fountain Court in front of Macy's on Bellevue Way, will be a large-scale tunnel that features a crystal-like design made using a wood structure entirely encased in corrugated plastic and vinyl. According to Gahan, the exterior and interior will be detailed with brightly colored, three dimensional vinyl crystals. Visitors will be able to walk through the tunnel experiencing the installation both physically and visually. Lighting features will enhance the color and vibrancy of the interior space.



Elizabeth R. Gahan with her 3D piece, "Metamorphosis." Photo: elizabethgahan.com

"I love that it will be 100 percent interactive so people can look through it, walk through it and experience it," says Gahan. "The design of a tunnel (which clears 6.5 feet and is about 6 feet wide) was important because I want people to walk through it and be inspired, but not uncomfortable. It will have a powerful impact, but still be inviting."

She goes on to describe the art piece as a metaphor for the fair. "When you enter the fair, it is a visual, physical experience that gets you into the creative, inspired frame of mind," she says. "This piece will evoke that feeling in everyone who enters it."

"We were so impressed by Elizabeth's large scale, dramatic pieces that we knew she would bring a new level of appreciation for interactive and visual art to this amazing event," said Jennifer Leavitt, vice

president of marketing for The Bellevue Collection. “We are proud to continually support Bellevue Arts Museum and local artists each year during ARTSfair. They reinforce the importance of art in our community and directly connect to the history of Bellevue Square.”

“Each piece and installation is unique,” says Gahan. “For all of my work I think of my materials and what I do with them, but also what inspiration I get from the event and location. I have been to the fair before, and when I go to a location, I get hit with the idea. Looking at the dynamics of the stage and the fountain – the angular space allows the tunnel to run along one side of the fountain creating a natural footpath going toward the stair.” The tunnel changes with the light. “At dusk when you can still see, there will be bright color and a warm glow. Then at night, the lighting will create a very different effect.”

Along with Gahan’s art, the annual summer ARTSfair will celebrate independent artists, makers and community. More than 300 inspiring artists’ booths are set up showcasing unique, handmade craft and art. This marketplace represents modern, traditional, and emerging work.

BAM ARTSfair also offers free programming including: BAM Exhibitions, KIDSfair, the Sound & Movement Stage, food trucks, site specific artwork and much more. Since 1947, BAM ARTSfair has been the annual gathering place for our community and a great way to connect to the world of art, craft, & design.

About The Bellevue Collection

Located in the heart of Bellevue, Washington, The Bellevue Collection, owned by Kemper Development Company, includes Bellevue Square, a super-regional upscale shopping center, Bellevue Place, a mixed-use property featuring the Hyatt Regency Bellevue and small boutiques and Lincoln Square, anchored by Lincoln Square Cinemas, restaurants, home furnishings and The Westin Bellevue. This distinctive collection features 250 of the finest shops, 30 destination restaurants, a 16-screen premier cinema, 1,100 luxury hotel rooms and 10,000 free retail parking spaces, all in one location. The Bellevue Collection is a shopping, dining and nightlife, and entertainment experience unlike any other in the region. It is located on Bellevue Way between NE 4th and NE 10th Streets in downtown Bellevue, just across Lake Washington from Seattle.