

For Immediate Release
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Pratt launches Master Artist in Residence program this fall

Irish artist Kevin O'Dwyer to work in Pratt's studios in November and December

Pratt Fine Arts Center will host its first Master Artist in Residence, the Irish metalsmith Kevin O'Dwyer, from November 17 - December 20, 2010. This month-long residency in Pratt's specialized studios will allow O'Dwyer to develop his work on a larger scale by translating it into glass, forged metal and other materials not readily available to him in his own studio in Ireland.

O'Dwyer plans to explore and develop his *Below Sea Level* series, which combines glass, bronze and wood in combination with silver. He'll have access to Pratt's hot shop and a professional glassblower to help him execute components for his sculptures, as well as assistance working with steel in the blacksmithing studios.

The artist will also present a small exhibition of works in progress in Pratt's Hallway Gallery in December and a public lecture on his work and his experience with the residency at Bellevue Arts Museum on December 12, at 2 pm. An open studio evening will be presented at the end of his residency to allow Pratt's students, members and supporters to see what he has accomplished through his time at Pratt.



Kevin O'Dwyer is an internationally recognized master silversmith and sculptor. He is the Director of Sculpture in the Parklands in Ireland, a community art program where international artists create site specific permanent installations in the cutaway bogland of the Irish Midlands. His work is included in museum collections worldwide. www.millennium2000silver.com

The Master Artist Residency is a new component of the longstanding Master Artist Program, which brings 8 nationally and internationally renowned artists to teach in Pratt's studios each year. Master Artists also present public lectures on their work, and are often featured in exhibitions in Pratt's Hallway Gallery or at the Pratt Gallery at Tashiro Kaplan Studios.

Pratt's Master Artist in Residence Program is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and Culture Ireland.

Image: Kevin O'Dwyer, *Below Sea Level*, 2010, bronze and sterling silver, courtesy of artist.
High resolution images are available upon request.

About Pratt Fine Arts Center:

Pratt Fine Arts Center was named after Edwin T. Pratt, a civil rights leader whose vision was to improve the quality of life for all people through equal opportunities. Pratt works to maintain this legacy by changing the lives of individuals of all ages, skill levels, ethnicities and economic means - through art. Located in one of Seattle's most culturally diverse and economically disadvantaged areas, Pratt fosters creative expression, community and shared inspiration - providing life-transforming experiences through visual arts training. Pratt offers all people who enter its doors the opportunity to make something unique, to change the way they see their world - and the way they see themselves.

Since 1976, Pratt Fine Arts Center has offered art classes for everyone and workspace for artists in its equipment-rich facilities in Seattle's Central District. Pratt serves 3,400 students each year and more than 500 working artists use Pratt's affordable studios and equipment.

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