

BEAD MUSEUM NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

THE ETERNAL BEAD EXHIBITION EXTENDED UNTIL END OF MARCH, 2006

Washington, D.C (June 7, 2005) – The Bead Museum has extended the current exhibition “The External Bead.” This exhibition will remain on display at the Bead Museum through March 26 2006 due to popular demand. Featuring beaded masterpieces from U.S collectors, “The Eternal Bead” explores how beads figure into humanity’s essential activities— accounting, acquiring, belief, celebration, creation, enjoyment, identity, and protection. Curator of the exhibition, Hilary Whittaker, believes the Eternal Bead captures, “The humble but mighty bead as it reflects the fascinating story of earth’s peoples, cultures, treasures and triumphs.”

The Eternal Bead’s central showpiece is the stunning eye bead (*image available upon request*), a symbol of protection throughout time. The exhibit also features a dowry necklace from the Turkoman culture in Central Asia, a Ribari Fan from the Kutch region of India, an 18th century Russian icon painting of the Virgin Mary and the Crucifixion embellished with seed pearls, as well as technically unparalleled contemporary glass beads demonstrating the American, Asian and European explosion of creative artistry.

Aside from a wide array of beads and beaded treasures, photographs from the documentary “World on a String: The Eternal Bead,” the first of a four-part film series by award-winning cinema photographer Diana Friedberg will remain on display with the film of the same name running continuously in the exhibition.

The east coast premiere of Friedberg's film will take place at the Bead Museum's "Beads, High Seas, and Culture" gala on Saturday, June 25 in conjunction with the extension of "The Eternal Bead" exhibition.

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About The BEAD MUSEUM—The Bead Museum, sponsored by the Bead Society of Greater Washington, is located at 400 Seventh Street NW, in the cultural corridor of Penn Quarter near the National Archives, and two blocks from the MCI Center. The Archives/Navy Memorial/Penn Quarter Metro stop is one block south, and the Gallery Place/Chinatown/MCI stop on the Red Line is two blocks north.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m.– 4 p.m., Sunday 1– 4 p.m, and every Third Thursday, 6-8 p.m. Admission is a suggested donation of \$3.00 per person.

Visit www.BeadMuseumDC.org for additional information.