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Press Release — For Immediate Release

Local Designer Named Finalist in 2006 Saul Bell Design Award Competition

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Information above is for questions about the press release;
please publish only the information below.

Stanley Siu of Manna-Tahiti Pearl Company® Named Finalist in the 2006 Saul Bell Design Award Competition

Designer and jewelry manufacturer Stanley Siu of Manna-Tahiti Pearl Company® in Oakland, California, was recently recognized as a finalist in the 2006 Saul Bell Design Award competition for jewelry design. Both the designer and his jewelry piece were honored in Las Vegas during *The JCK Show—Las Vegas* in June. Siu's notable piece, "Bamboo Silver Bracelet" was hand-fabricated from sterling silver. The wristband features a bamboo texture and showcases two 11mm black Tahitian pearls. Siu designed the piece using a CAD program, created a 3-D wax model from the rendering and cast the design in sterling silver. Siu was also a finalist in the Beads category in the 2005 competition. This year's design was also a finalist in the Beads category. Winning pieces may be viewed online at www.saulbellaward.com.

The 2005 competition challenged jewelry designers to push the boundaries of creativity as they created original and innovative pieces in any of five jewelry categories. Each designer chose one category as the foundation of their piece and integrated additional stones or materials as they wished, provided that the predominant material remained at least 75% of the finished, original design.

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Gold/Platinum: the predominant metal is gold, platinum or a combination of both. May be cast, fabricated, forged, assembled or created with any combination of techniques. Must be the designer's original design.

Silver: the predominant metal is silver. May be cast, fabricated, forged, assembled or created with any combination of techniques. Must be the designer's original design.

Precious Metal Clay[®]: the predominant material is any variety of silver or gold Precious Metal Clay[®] (PMC). Must be the designer's original design.

Beads: the predominant elements are beads, pearls or other strung ornaments. Beads may be of any material. Must be the designer's original design and assembly.

Hollowware: the predominant metal is silver and/or gold; includes vessels that are spun, drawn, forged and/or raised. Decorative fabricated or cast components may be incorporated into the design.

2005 Hollowware Category Winners:

Grand Prize — \$10,000 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Joost During of Yoast Silver in Warwick, Rhode Island, USA

Description: Fabricated and hand-formed (hammered) teapot constructed of sterling and featuring a rosewood handle and feet. The handle is assembled with a pin and the feet are threaded into place.

Second Place — \$1000 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Craig Bremer, Doraville, Georgia, USA

Description: "The Queen of Hearts"— Constructed completely of sterling, this teapot was first spun and then embellished with die-formed pieces, cast components and forged wire and sheet. This piece is the centerpiece in a tea service inspired by *Alice in Wonderland*.

2005 Silver Category Winners:

First Place — \$2500 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Chihiro Makio of 314 Studio in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Description: "Orange Necklace"— Sterling necklace constructed from hand-cut, three-dimensional pieces that are either oxidized, 24KY-gold-plated or rhodium-coated. Glass beads are hand-sewn onto the leaf edges.

Second Place — \$1000 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Hazel Studstill of Hj Designs in Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Description: “The Vertebrae Necklace”— Several vertebrae, cast from a hand-cut 18-gauge sterling original, were strung onto sterling cable through sections of tubing soldered under each and finished with a hidden hook and loop closure.

2005 Precious Metal Clay® (PMC) Category Winners:

First Place — \$2500 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Kate McKinnon, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Description: from the “Spiky” Series—Necklace consisting of spiky PMC3® shapes, fired, patinaed and tumbled. The spikes are strung, along with glass seed-bead spacers and 4mm wired freshwater pearls, onto stainless steel cable.

Second Place — \$1000 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Gordon Uyehara of HonuDream in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Description: “Ancient Life”— Necklace constructed of PMC3® formed over cork clay and fired. Rolled out and stenciled clay formed the backing shape; surface details were carved with needle files. A 7mm amber cab forms the “eye.”

2005 Beads Category Winners:

First Place — \$2500 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Marilyn Bailey of M.E. Bailey Designs in Hendersonville, North Carolina, USA

Description: “Funky Gold Necklace”— Necklace constructed of spiraled 14-gauge, 14K gold wire. Silver disc beads are cut, then soldered together and strung onto the wire.

Second Place — \$1000 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Todd Reed of Todd Reed in Boulder, Colorado, USA

Description: Necklace comprised of black beads hand-fabricated from silver sheet, 18K gold beads set with twenty-seven raw diamond cubes and aquamarine beads. The design is finished with a hand-fabricated magnetic clasp.

2005 Gold/Platinum Category Winners:

First Place — \$2500 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Ruben Zhitnik of Ruben’s Jewelry in Mayfield Heights, Ohio, USA

Description: 18K yellow and white gold cast ring comprised of one single-carat round diamond, twenty-four 3-point princess diamonds and ten 2-point round diamonds. The large diamond is tension-set to rotate freely within the design.

Second Place — \$1000 Rio Grande Gift Certificate

Paula Crevoshay of Paula Crevoshay in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Description: “Spring Rain”— Necklace features eight quartz “clouds” and 26 blue zircon “raindrops” carried by rolling puffs of 18K “wind.” A 6.59-carat zircon and quartz briolette drop can be removed to create a different look and feel.

The finalists in the 2005 Saul Bell Design Award competition are:

David Bausman, Sudan, Texas, USA — Hollowware

Michelle Berlin of Mosshill Studio in Vashon, Washington, USA — PMC®

Glen Engelbrecht of G.J. Designs in Sarasota, Florida, USA — Gold/Platinum

Anne Hallam, Denver, Colorado, USA — Hollowware

Chris Irick, Utica, New York, USA — Silver

Thea Izzi, of TNI Design in Oakland, California, USA — Silver

James Kaya of Solair Jewelers in Boston, Massachusetts, USA — Gold/Platinum

Linda Kaye-Moses of Plumdinger Studio in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, USA — PMC®

Joan Marin of Bornstein Group in Aventura, Florida, USA — Gold/Platinum

Michelle Ritter, Encinitas, California, USA — Hollowware

Stanley Siu of Manna Tahiti Pearl Company in Alameda, California, USA — Beads

Bianca Terranova of Biancanova in Groton, Connecticut, USA — PMC®

Kerry Tomczyk, Bowdoinham, Maine, USA — Silver

Wendy Wallin Malinow of Wallin Malinow Illustration in Portland, Oregon, USA — PMC®

For information about the upcoming 2006 Saul Bell Design Award competition, designers are invited to call 800.396.9896 ext. 13247 to request a brochure, e-mail to hideyo@tbg.riogrande.com or visit www.saulbellaward.com for general information about the Saul Bell Design Award.

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