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**FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM COMMISSIONS FORD/FORLANO NECKLACE
FOR PERMANENT COLLECTION**

Brockton, MA – An important new work has recently been added to Fuller Craft Museum’s growing collection of contemporary craft. In Spring 2006 the Museum commissioned artists Steven Ford and David Forlano to design a necklace for the Museum’s permanent collection. The finished piece was delivered to the Museum in December 2007. The necklace is an innovative work comprised of metal and polymer clay, and represents a new direction towards bigger and bolder forms for Ford/Forlano. It is an exciting addition to an expanding collection of contemporary craft and illustrates Fuller Craft’s commitment to collecting outstanding works created by masters artists.

Steven Ford and David Forlano are two of the nation’s leading jewelry makers. Working in a cross-country collaboration, their brooches, necklaces and bracelet have transformed the jewelry field through their innovative use of new materials and designs. While exhibiting at Craftboston 2006, organized by The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, Fuller Craft Museum Director Gretchen Keyworth awarded Ford/Forlano the Director’s Choice Award. Instead of selecting a piece from the show, Keyworth decided to commission the artists to design a new piece for the Museum. The artists decided to make a necklace and since, as a Museum piece, it will not necessarily be worn they were able to “make something over the top,” according to Steven Ford.

David Forlano says the finished piece reminds him of “satellites.” Small sterling silver cups hold hollow clay globes decorated with bright orange, red and purple dots and spikes. Although a large and complex piece, the necklace has an innate wearability. The individual cups are connected to each other with wire pegs, and are able to pivot and move in order to relate to the movements of the wearer. The necklace is the first half-metal, half-clay piece for the artists, and the first with hollow beads. It is also their first piece in a museum collection.

Fuller Craft Museum Director Gretchen Keyworth says, “We are delighted to welcome this extraordinary piece into the Fuller Craft Museum collection. Steven Ford and David Forlano have created a truly significant work of art. It is an exciting and important addition to the Museum’s collection.”

Ford/Forlano’s bi-coastal collaboration on jewelry design began in 1988 under the name City Zen Cane. Working with then new material, polymer clay, their early production work was characterized by bright colors and complex caned cross sectional patterns. They are nationally recognized as innovative artists who pioneered a new path of jewelry making. Steven Ford and David Forlano have taught workshops nationally, co-authored a how-to book for Lark Books, and received various awards including 2003 Best of Jewelry American Craft Expositions; 2003 Best of Show, Craftboston; 2003 Merit Award, Smithsonian Craft Show; 2002 Best of Show, Philadelphia Craft Show; 2001 First Prize, Baltimore Winter Craft Show; 1999, Award of Excellence, American Crafts Council.

Their work has been exhibited nationally at galleries and museums including Kentucky Museum of Arts and Design, Louisville, KY; Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH; Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI; Houston Center for Crafts, Houston, TX; Snyderman/Works Gallery, Chicago, IL; Braunstein/Quay Gallery, San Francisco, CA; The Works Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.; and show at craft shows nationwide.

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About Fuller Craft Museum

Fuller Craft Museum, New England’s home for contemporary craft, is dedicated to the objects, ideas, and insight that inspire both patrons and artists to explore life through the art of contemporary craft. Craft is an art discipline that is both intriguing and accessible. Its roots are in the creation of functional objects, but today, craft has come to be more closely aligned with the inspired ideas of artists who work primarily with their hands in materials that are tactile and familiar. Fuller Craft offers a collection, exhibitions, demonstrations, workshops and special events where you can literally touch the materials and objects. Fuller Craft Museum is the most exciting place to be in the world of contemporary craft.

Fuller Craft Museum is located at 455 Oak Street in Brockton, MA. The Museum is open daily, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and students, Free for members and children under 18.