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**PAPER TO PEARLS BEADERS FETAURED AMONG 60 INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS IN
PAPER JEWELRY EXHIBITION**

***Recycled Paper Necklaces Crafted by Displaced Northern Ugandan Women Among
Artisan Designs Included Museum Exhibition Launched in Milan***

ALEXANDRIA, VA – Selected works of beaders enrolled in the programs of Paper to Pearls, a micro-enterprise initiative in northern Uganda, are among pieces included in *Paper Jewellery*, an international artisan paper jewelry exhibition. Now on display in Milan, Italy, *Paper Jewellery* showcases the work of 60 designers from all over the world, and Paper to Pearls is the only not-for-profit organization represented in the exhibit. Paper to Pearls supports more than 125 internally displaced women by training them in the art of rolling recycled paper into versatile, high-fashion beads.

“Paper has always been a medium for communication,” said Bianca Cappello, jewelry historian. “Through their art and the handcrafting of jewelry, these women are weaving a narrative of their own, while incorporating the concept of ecological sustainability and bringing tremendous value to a simple product like paper – the very themes of this show.”

Organized by Cappello and Alba Cappellieri, professor of jewelry design at the Politecnico of Milan, *Paper Jewellery* represents the most complete exhibition ever dedicated to paper jewelry. Five Paper to Pearls necklaces are included in the collection. The selected pieces broadly characterize work from all of the beader cooperatives, such as the Awer co-op's small narrow beadwork. Each necklace features a silver clasp and is finished with a specially formulated non-toxic, eco-conscious varnish for lasting sheen and durability.

“This honor is not only a testament to the beauty and quality of our jewelry,” said Barbara Moller, president and founder of Paper to Pearls. “It also represents the recognition of our beaders as artists, now taking their place alongside some of the most celebrated jewelry artists in the world. These women, whose lives have been forever scarred by conflict and poverty, can now see how much their work is valued and appreciated – and that it touches the lives of people in countries and communities all over the globe.”

The exhibition launched with a morning press conference on September 15, 2009, at the [Triennale Design Museum of Milan](#) and will run in Milan through October 25, 2009. The collection will then begin an international tour, with stops in Sydney, Australia and Seoul, South Korea, and will return to Italy in July 2010, to conclude at the [Museo della Carta](#) in Fabriano.

The exhibition catalogue is available in Italian and English, in a limited edition of 2000 copies. Contributors include Silvana Annicchiarico, director of the Triennale Design Museum; Alba Cappellieri; Bianca Cappello; and Ilaria Danieli, editor-in-chief of *Vogue Gioiello*. A [slideshow of the exhibition](#) can be viewed online for a limited time on the Triennale Design Museum's Web site.

About Paper to Pearls

An initiative of Voices for Global Change, Paper to Pearls works with women from internal refugee camps in northern Uganda to create jewelry by hand-rolling beads from recycled paper, which is then sold in the United States and throughout the world. On average, 85 percent of the sale price of each piece of jewelry directly benefits the beader through income and training. Since 2006, the program has grown to include nearly 125 women in nine beading cooperatives, allowing them to make approximately four times the national average wage. Concerned with empowerment and self-sufficiency, Paper to Pearls also provides women with the skills and confidence to take control of their own lives. For more information and to purchase jewelry items, visit www.papertopearls.org.

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PLEASE NOTE:

- High-resolution images of all Paper to Pearls Paper Jewelry Show pieces are available upon request.
- Barbara Moller is available for local in-studio or telephone interviews.