

Email Subject: FORGE Forward 2007 Conference Logo and Website

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The FORGE Forward 2007 Conference committee is pleased to announce the winner of its logo contest, Wolfgang Beilschmidt.

The winning logo, featured on every page of the newly-launched conference website at <http://www.forge-forward.org/conference/>, is a graphic embodiment of the conference theme, Honoring Our Complexities. A rainbow spiral -- an ancient symbol of journey, change, or transition -- is a very fitting image for the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference. The groundbreaking 4 day Conference is the first female-to-male (FTM+) spectrum and Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies (SOFFA) conference to be held in the Heartland (Milwaukee, WI). The Conference and two pre-Conference days of Intensives will take place on March 29 - April 1, 2007.

Wolfgang said of his design, "For me, [the logo symbolizes] a journey outward to find a new center. I also wanted to depict the gender continuum; we all start out the same in the womb." Wolfgang is a 36 year-old FTM writer, artist, and gourd farmer from Missouri. He is currently writing his first novel, a sci-fi-fantasy adventure. He grooms dogs at a local veterinary clinic for a living and describes himself as "kind of a country guy with a big city philosophy."

A panel of seven judges, several of who are professional graphic designers, awarded second place to Jacob Anderson-Minshall, for a black-and-white design that features names of dozens of overlapping identities represented in the FTM+/SOFFA spectrum. He commented, "the number and breadth of the terms we use for ourselves and our community speak to our complexities and diversity." Anderson-Mitchell is a California artist, emerging graphic designer, author of the syndicated column TransNation, and Film Editor at LiP magazine.

Third place went to Rion (Amy) Chesbro, who explained her entry this way: The Native American symbol for the Four Directions symbolizes the sacredness of all the earth and the qualities of each direction. The European-style shield symbolizes honor and the courage to follow one's convictions. It shows that regardless of the direction of transness, we honor the complexity of one another and will fight for one another. The half-face indicates male energy. "The fact that it is less than the entire male face means that you can draw in the other half of the face as masculine, feminine, or other as you prefer." She calls the "festive squiggles" the "rainbow collection," and says they show "that we are very similar, but we can locate as we like." The circular theme reinforces the sacredness of our lives. Rion (Amy) Chesbro is a jack of all trades and master of none who has bounced like a pinball from the

West Coast (Alaska) to the East Coast (New York), settling finally in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her interests include creative and technical writing, teaching, interface design, psychic work, television drama, her Chihuahua Salvador, and her partner PJ, who is the magnetic force that caused her pinball self to rest.

All three winning designs are featured at <http://www.forge-forward.org/conference/aboutus/logo.php>. Beilschmidt won two free registrations to the conference, plus two free t-shirts featuring his logo. Anderson-Minshall has been awarded one free registration and two t-shirts; Chesbro will receive two t-shirts.

FORGE also thanks the three other artists who designed and submitted logo designs. We are deeply grateful for your effort and interest.

The FORGE Forward 2007 Conference's philosophy is inclusion-focused. We value individuality, diversity, and complexity -- believing that together, all of us make a stronger, more supportive and vibrant community.

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