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November 2009 at Traver Gallery – Tacoma

CUD: *American Glass: How Soon is Now?*

Exhibition Runs: November 14 – December 6, 2009

Opening Reception: Saturday, November 14, 4 – 7 pm

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Informed by chance, situation, humor and experimentation, “CUDwork” on display in this sophomore exhibition with Traver Gallery includes blown glass, sand-castings, prints, altered photographs, paintings, mosaic and unorthodox combinations of all of the above. These works reference an ongoing interest in recycling, collaboration and concept-based work realized by simple means and materials.

Drury and Miller are certainly nontraditional artists both in concept and in process. The strength of their visual puns and clever undercurrents are evident in their blown glass stumps, life-size cast glass sawhorse, giant enamel painted glass Kool Aid jugs, and altered photographs. Finger prints and pinholes activate the surfaces of their work, highlighting the spontaneous and playful methods CUD use.



CUD serves as a conceptual metaphor for a process of working with recycled material and creating art as a residue of the teaching process. Even the most humorous work in the CUD repertoire is steeped with respect for the history of the early days of the studio glass movement and in particular pays respect to Pilchuck Glass School and to its founders, both instrumental to the genesis and ongoing development of CUD.

Collaboration enlightens and widens the processes of glassmaking, say the artists, offering the chance to create sculptural works that display an interest in intent, workmanship, and community, as well as aesthetics. One series by CUD will often forecast another and cross-pollination is also not unusual. Much CUDwork is about time and place, rooted in studies of people, places and things of interest relevant to the moment.

John Drury and Robbie Miller met in 1984 at Pilchuck Glass School, which has remained instrumental in their collaboration as glass artists. Drury and Miller share over fifty years of experience in creating works of art with glass as well as a twenty-one-year collaborative effort. Drury and Miller are frequent instructors at Pilchuck and, to date, have co-taught students from England, Japan, Israel, South Korea, Guatemala, Australia and from all over the United States.

Caption Info: Un-Kool Aid, blown glass and enamels, 16”h x 18”w x 14”d.

Located on Tacoma’s Thea Foss Waterway and adjacent to the Museum of Glass, Traver Gallery is among the nation’s premier exhibition spaces for contemporary studio glass, painting, sculpture, and installation art. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10 – 6 and Sunday 12 – 5. For more information, please call (253) 383-3685 or visit our website at www.travergallery.com.