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September at Traver Gallery – Tacoma

Nancy Callan and Julia Ricketts: *She Said, She Said*

Exhibition Dates: September 11 – October 10, 2010

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 18, 5 – 8 pm

Nancy Callan and Julia Ricketts: *She Said, She Said*

Traver Gallery is pleased to present *She Said, She Said*, an exhibition featuring collaborative artwork by glass artist Nancy Callan and painter/printmaker Julia Ricketts. This second collaborative exhibition of the two artists reveals the innovative results of dialogue between two linked but distinct processes and perspectives.

Collaborators can be both springboards and sounding boards and, as the title suggests, *She Said, She Said* references themes of relationships and communication. *Listen* (above) exemplifies where both Callan's and Ricketts' trademarks have combined visibly and to amplified effect. Airy, jewel-toned auriforms hint at familiar Callan clamshell forms and allude to the giving and receiving of conversation. Ricketts' printmaking skills transform the surface with etched patterns saturated with black ink that dance around the surface as though mapping visually the path of a conversation.



Those expecting to see classic Callan will see evidence of her intricate, classic Venetian cane work spun into complex patterns, but also a distinct departure from this signature. Replacing the precise bands of color with more freeform glassy brush strokes, Callan has taken cues from Ricketts to achieve more painterly effects. Conversely, Ricketts explores the translucency and volume of three-dimensional glass sculpture in largely abstract paintings with tonal references to three primary-colored pieces respectively titled *Touch Me* that bridge the more dissonant qualities of each artists' respective work. Consistent with other paintings by Ricketts, communication is a theme in this exhibition's paintings; she is influenced by the process of painting, by the relationship between harmony and tension.

The work presented in *She Said, She Said* displays the sensitivity and inquisitiveness one has come to expect from each of these artists, yet also shows their experimental inclinations. Whereas their 2003 undertaking explored the common vocabulary of their respective media-of-choice within a monochromatic palette, this body of work demonstrates an unabashed penchant for and willingness to experiment with color. A process that began

during a March 2010 residency at the Museum of Glass, Tacoma, comes to fruition in blown and carved glass sculpture, painting, drawings, and hybridized pieces that form the link between the distinct work of each.

Nancy Callan has been working as a glass artist in Seattle since receiving her BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1996. She has been a member of Lino Tagliapietra's glassblowing team and has traveled through the U.S. as his teaching assistant. Callan has also worked as a gaffer for Manifesto Corporation (Seattle), Pilchuck Glass School, and artist Ginny Ruffner. Her teaching experience includes courses at The Studio in Corning, New York, and advanced workshops at Pratt Fine Arts Center in Seattle.

Julia Ricketts received a BFA in printmaking and painting from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, NY. She has taught extensively throughout the Northwest, including at Kirkland Arts Center, Pilchuck Glass School and Pratt Fine Arts Center. She exhibits nationally, and her work is held in the Microsoft Collection, the King County Art Collection, the Seattle City Light Portable Works Collection, and numerous private collections. Ricketts has been the recipient of the Artist Trust Gap Grant, a King County Special Projects Grant, and was an Emerging Artist in Residence at the Pilchuck Glass School in 2000.

Image: Listen II, 2010, blown and carved glass, 17.5"h x 12.5"w x 7"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. Traver Gallery is admission-free and open to the public Wednesday-Saturday 10am – 6pm and Sunday 12 – 5pm. For more information, please call 253-383-3685 or visit our website at www.travergallery.com.