

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Allison Kramer; allison@travergallery.com

October 2009 at Traver Gallery – Tacoma

Cappy Thompson: *Dreamscapes: Heaven and Earth*

Exhibition Runs: October 10 – November 8, 2009

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 10, 4 – 7 pm

Cappy Thompson: *Dreamscapes: Heaven and Earth*

Traver Gallery Tacoma is pleased to present Cappy Thompson's *Dreamscapes: Heaven and Earth*, showing October 10 - November 8 at Traver Gallery Tacoma. Reminiscent of magical realism, the Seattle artist's prescient enamel-on-glass paintings combine with a suite of ceramics for Thompson's first West Coast gallery exhibition in nearly a decade. A luminary among American glass painters, Cappy Thompson animates scenes both familiar and exotic in a style that is both deeply personal and rich in the influence of folk traditions the world over.



Thompson's narratives are often autobiographical, with the artist and her friends occasionally standing in as characters in her legends. One of ten paintings in the exhibition, *Dreamscapes: Three Aspects of My Soul*, above, depicts Thompson as each of three distinct personas. In another piece the artist and her husband take the place of Adam and Eve, apples and fig leaves in hand. Whether springing literally from her dreams or simply dream-like, the works in *Dreamscapes* highlight the infinite possibilities of the imagination and resist limitations of time and place.

Having spent much of the last decade working on a series of large-scale public commissions, *Dreamscapes* represents Thompson's return to work on a more intimate scale. Her introduction to the medium of clay turned out to be the necessary bridge, providing a fresh canvas in which to engage with subjects that have captured her attention for years. Questions of "What are we as human beings?" and "Who am I and what is my purpose?" were made fresh in the context of personal loss. Her responses manifest in the form of angels, Buddha and sacred natural beings. A strength of Thompson's work is its reluctance to tell the entire tale, recognizing that there is a domain beyond our control. Fortunately, one can decide to simply enjoy where Thompson's painted stories take you.

Seattle artist Cappy Thompson graduated from The Evergreen State College in 1976 and has exhibited internationally for the last thirty years. Thompson has been recognized as a Fellow of the National Endowment for the Arts and, in addition to teaching extensively, her work is included in the collections of noted public and corporate institutions worldwide.

Caption Info: "Dreamscapes: Three Aspects of My Soul" 2009, vitreous enamel on glass, 23"h x 28.25"w
Photo: Peter Mumford

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.