

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ben Rosenblatt; ben@travergallery.com

August/September 2009 at Traver Gallery – Seattle

Dale Chihuly: *Mercurio*

Exhibition Runs: August 7 – September 20, 2009

Opening Reception: First Thursday, August 6, 5 – 8 pm

Dale Chihuly: *Mercurio*

Traver Gallery-Seattle is proud to present *Mercurio*, a solo exhibition by renowned artist Dale Chihuly that marks the first showing of Chihuly's work at the gallery's Seattle location. The exhibition will debut a new series of silvered sculptures from the artist's *Venetian* series in conjunction with an installation that will fill the 4,000+ square foot gallery.

Mercurio will feature a combination of new works from multiple series including *Chandeliers*, *Towers*, *Venetians* and *Drawings*, as well as archived *Venetians* and *Piccolo Venetians*. For a portion of this exhibition, Chihuly organized an unprecedented, no-holds-barred eight-day blow with his colleague James Mongrain and Team Chihuly to execute a series of astonishing *Venetians*. Generous in scale, the event commemorates the birth of the *Silvered* series, marking the first time Chihuly applied silver as the base color for an entire series of work. Stirred by the impact of the project and its possibilities, Chihuly has reconsidered existing work in an unexpected way. He has selected from his archives early work from the *Venetians* and *Piccolo Venetians* series. These objects have now been silvered, adding a new depth and dimension to already-powerful works of art.



Chihuly's contribution to the arts in the Pacific Northwest has been immeasurable. By playing an instrumental role in the development of Pilchuck Glass School and by establishing his own studio in Seattle, he has helped make the Puget Sound area an international hub for glass art rivaling the Italian Island of Murano. Chihuly's career as an artist is quite extraordinary- his notoriety among the ranks of the world's foremost living artists is one of the greatest stories of the Northwest. The spectacular artworks and seemingly impossible installations he creates have helped to catapult glass into the realm of Fine Art and have sparked the imaginations of viewers everywhere. His influence on glass art and the Northwest community is undeniable. Speaking about the exhibition, gallery owner Bill Traver says "I believe it is Dale's enduring passion, energy and creative spirit that make his work unique and truly outstanding. Nowhere is this spirit more evident than in this exhibition, *Mercurio*. At once luscious, contemporary, joyous and playful, Dale's new works invite us to join him in a sumptuous experience of light, material and imagination. I am proud to host this important new exhibition- a natural partnership that I have looked forward to for 30 years."

Caption Info: "SILVERED CLEAR VENETIAN" 1990/2009, blown glass, 34" x 9" x 9".

Photo: David Emery

Located one block north of the Seattle Art Museum, the Traver Gallery is one of the country's premier exhibition spaces for contemporary studio glass, painting, sculpture, and installation art. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Friday 10 – 6, Saturday 10 – 5, and Sunday 12 – 5. For more information, please call (206) 587-6501 or visit our website at www.travergallery.com.