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**November 2009 at Traver Gallery – Tacoma**

**Jen Elek: *Signals***

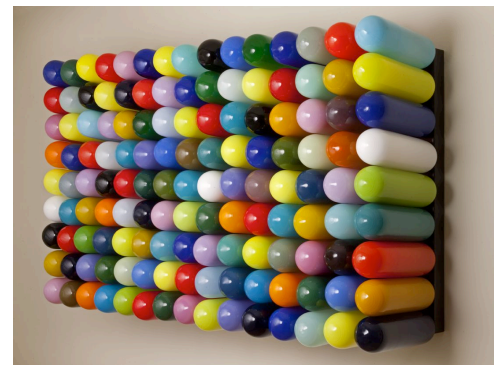
**Exhibition Runs: November 14 – December 6, 2009**

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

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**Jen Elek: *Signals***

Traver Gallery Tacoma is pleased to present *Signals*, showing November 14-December 6 at Traver Gallery Tacoma. Utilizing minimalist forms and a full spectrum of color, Seattle artist Jen Elek's first solo show with Traver Gallery draws on the countless messages received in daily life and the role of color in their transmission.



As a translator of contemporary culture and more specifically media, Elek's compositions consider the messages conditioned into our daily existence. She processes the associations we carry with traffic lights, billboards and the millions of dots that make up images on television alongside the language of color found in nature—the visual vocabulary that indicates the change of season or the setting of the sun. The transaction that takes place as we receive these messages happens quickly, yet these brief encounters leave impressions in our subconscious. It can tell us to stop, go, pause or contemplate. Says Elek, "*Signals* is a meditation on the primal communication that is color."

Elek's arrangements of luscious spheres and elongated spheroids in glossy, opaque glass form what she intends as reflective environments in which to re-charge the senses. They are also undeniably playful. Much of the work in *Signals* utilizes repeating forms to build a single piece, as with *Blanket*, above. 135 oblong pill-shaped pieces arranged in grid formation create a visual playground of glossy surfaces, candy colors and mesmerizing patterns.

Jen Elek lives and works in Seattle, WA with her husband and fellow artist Jeremy Bert. She received her BFA from Alfred University in 1994 and has worked for artists such as Lino Tagliapietra, Dale Chihuly, Sonja Blomdahl, and Ginny Ruffner. Jen has taught workshops throughout the U.S. and internationally including Israel, Canada and Japan. She works in glass, clay, metals and neon.

*Caption Info:* "Blanket," 2009, 36"h x 60"w x 17"d  
Photo: Russell Johnson

*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](http://www.travergallery.com).*