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February at the Traver Gallery – Seattle

Mark Bennion: *Amhairghin*

Ethan Stern: *Zoom*

Exhibition Dates: February 5 - 28, 2009

Opening Reception: First Thursday, February 4, 5 – 8 pm

Ethan Stern: *Zoom*

Traver Gallery-Seattle is pleased to present *Zoom*, a solo exhibition featuring new work by Seattle glass artist Ethan Stern. Fascinated by architecture and the urban industrial landscape, Stern's patterns and designs are dissections and magnifications of the imagery that surrounds him. The exhibition includes fifteen of the artist's graphically powerful blown and carved glass sculptures, each with a focus on color, composition and design.

As though operating the zoom function on a camera, Stern plays with maximizing and minimizing the scale of patterns within a set frame. Striving to marry form and surface design, Stern allows the viewer to explore how the changing scale adorns each of the respective objects and, in turn, how each object relates to its companion piece.



While the blowing process is very important to the creation of these pieces, it is the carving process that allows Stern to imbue his work with presence. Stern's sculptures begin as minimalist vessel forms, composed of multiple layers of color. With the form as his canvas, the artist draws his abstract patterns directly onto the surface. He then cuts into the glass using diamond wheels and stone wheels, allowing the imagery to emerge from within as color is revealed. Geometric patterns, shapes zoomed in and then out wind their way around the surfaces of the vessels creating a feeling of rhythm and sense of energy.

Ethan Stern graduated with a BFA from Alfred University in 2001. He currently operates a cold glass studio in Seattle, WA. He has been a summer staff member at Pilchuck Glass School for almost a decade and in the summer of 2009 he taught a course there called "The Unexpected Object". Ethan has also taught glass blowing and cold working at Hilltop Artists in Residence in Tacoma, WA, The Appalachian Center for Craft in Tennessee and Pratt Fine Arts Center in Seattle.

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.