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February 2010 at Traver Gallery – Tacoma

Jef Gunn: *Undo Every Woven*

Exhibition Runs: February 13 – March 7, 2010

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 13, 2–5 pm

Jef Gunn: *Undo Every Woven*

Traver Gallery Tacoma is pleased to present Portland artist Jef Gunn's *Undo Every Woven*, showing February 13 - March 7. At a convergence of the grand aspects of nature—deserts and mountains, skies and waters—and the intimate minutiae of the life forms they envelop, wilderness is concentrated into interrelations of shape and color in Gunn's paintings, prints, photographs and mixed-media collage.



Undo Every Woven is driven in part by Gunn's experiences in Oregon's high desert, where several of the workshops he leads take place. Gunn distills pattern and rhythm from the environment through the repetition of small forms—sage brush, stones, rabbits, steps taken on a path or otherwise—and from the patterns and gestures of the buttes and mesas, valleys and deserts that cradle these small forms. Gunn writes that he "depends on landscape because it's direct and honest; it's larger than me and my fears. I use abstraction and pattern and symbols to gesture toward that landscape." The artist's work sublimates the human relationship with the earth, an earth that he believes "supports unconditionally." The sky, the sun and rain all give without regard to whom they warm or drench. Gunn is equally benevolent, fully present in his surroundings and interpreting a simplicity and restraint that appreciates even the wind and dust.

Whereas the motif is consistent, the media employed are quite varied: Gunn makes use of traditional as well as modern techniques in oil, encaustic, *sumi* ink on paper, gouache, etching, monotype, collage and photography to achieve varied effects while referencing Medieval, pre-modern East Asian, Post-Impressionist, Expressionist, Dada and contemporary art movements.

Jef Gunn was born in Seattle in 1955 and grew up along the West Coast from Puget Sound to southern California to Hawaii. He studied drawing and painting in California through the 1970s, held residencies in Barcelona and Paris in the 1980s, and since the mid 1990s has engaged in a passionate study of Asian art. In 2005 Gunn completed a BFA in painting from Marylhurst University. He lives and works in Portland, Oregon, where he also practices meditation under the guidance of Sufi and Buddhist teachers. Gunn teaches drawing, painting and encaustic painting through the Pacific Northwest College of Art as well as workshops in monotype printing, *plein air* painting and other creative pursuits through The Tiger's Cave Studio, his own Portland-based operation.

Caption Info: "Lava Bed Hillside," 2009, encaustic on panel, 10.75"h x 15"w.

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.