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**November 2009 at Traver Gallery – Seattle**

**Mark Zirpel: Revolutionary Small Sculptures Of Large Objects**  
**Kathy Venter: Ostraca**

**Exhibition Runs: November 6, 2009 – November 29, 2009**  
**Opening Reception: First Thursday, November 5, 5 – 8 pm**

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**Kathy Venter: Ostraca**

Traver Gallery-Seattle is proud to present *Ostraca*, an exhibition of new works by ceramicist Kathy Venter. This exhibition features a series of ten hand-built, life size busts sculpted from live models.

Drawing inspiration from the Tangara figures of the Mycenaen period, the surfaces have been cemented, plastered with color and sandblasted. This treatment gives the pieces an encrusted appearance, as if worn from centuries of burial. Venter's figures convey a sense of archeological discovery – a reemergence of societies and the individuals who built them.

The word *Ostraca*—originating from the Greek word for shell—refers to fragments of fired clay, valued for the information they carry.

These sculptures, which are fragments of figures and shell like in their hollow built method, carry with them the stories of individuals, and cause the viewer to reflect on their own individuality, and in turn humanity at large.

Venter hand builds each sculpture in the extended pinch method – as employed in freehand coil and pinch ceramic vessels. She deliberately builds the works fifteen percent larger than life sized, to allow for shrinkage during the drying and high temperature firing process. No molding or casting is used to create the pieces. In pairing classical composition with an unconventional surface finish, Venter captures a sense of heightened realism. They are simultaneously layered with meaning and also feel raw, as though both exposing and disguising the human subject.

Kathy Venter has an MFA in sculpture from Port Elizabeth School of Art and Design in South Africa and apprenticed to ceramist Hylton Nel. She currently resides on Salt Spring Island, B.C.



*Caption Info: "Light Year" 2009, clay, cement, plaster, 24" x 22" x 12"*

*Located across the street from 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](http://www.travergallery.com).*