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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 – November 29, 2009

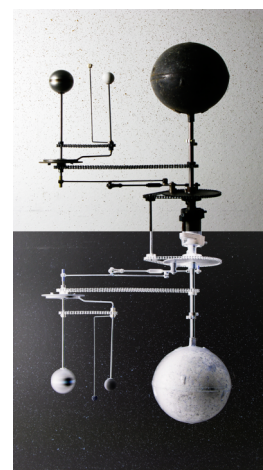
Opening Reception: First Thursday, November 5, 5 – 8 pm

Mark Zirpel: *Small sculptures of large objects*

Traver Gallery-Seattle is proud to present *Small Sculptures of Large Objects*, an exhibition of new works by Seattle based artist Mark Zirpel.

Often playing on the convergence between art and science, Zirpel's new work seeks to delve into our notions of time. This show investigates the direct links between forces at work in the celestial sphere, and the resulting effects here on earth.

This exhibition is a collection of installation based, kinetic, sculptures made from glass and various found objects. Zirpel's works in "small sculptures of large objects", are based on the behaviors of physical matter – ripples left from an ebbing tide or cyclical patterns of growth in botanical specimens. These sculptures harness the powers of the natural world as a means of understanding the universe and our place and purpose within it. Relying on his insatiable curiosity and the need to question "why?" Mark Zirpel's work asks us to become participant in the quest for knowledge and to deepen our understanding of the physical relationship between humans and the universe at large.



Inquiry, and experiment guide Zirpel's work. He says of his method "my studio discipline is heavy on problem solving, failures, improvising, lateral thinking, persistence, focused effort, rigorous work ethic, and faith in the activity as its own justification and reward". This process of inquiry not only forms his method, but the message of the art itself. He says "...Sculpture is a merging of form and meaning, an organization of matter into a meaningful construct". With each installation, Zirpel carefully considers not only how the viewer will interact with the piece but also how the environment that surrounds it will impact the overall intended message.

Mark Zirpel received his BFA in drawing and printmaking from the University of Alaska and an MFA in printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute. He worked for several years as the Print Shop Coordinator at Pilchuck Glass School, where he was introduced to glass as a sculptural medium. Mark Zirpel is currently a 3D4M Professor at the University of Washington; his work has been featured at the Museum Of Glass in Tacoma, and is represented in collections nationwide.

Caption Info: "Orrery #3" 2009, mixed media, 56" x 20" x 23"

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.