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November/December at Traver Gallery – Tacoma

Paul Stankard: *Kingdom of Plants*

Exhibition Runs: November 12, 2011 – January 15, 2012

Artist Reception: Saturday, November 19, 2 -4 pm

Paul Stankard: *Kingdom of Plants*

The Traver Gallery in Tacoma is pleased to present *Kingdom of Plants*, a solo exhibition featuring over thirty works spanning the career of internationally renowned east coast artist Paul Stankard. Known for his unparalleled technical skill, Stankard's meticulously detailed, intricately flameworked flowers, insects and natural elements, are encased in clear crystal, creating fascinating, perfectly preserved worlds suspended in a permanent state of beauty.

While the plant kingdom is certainly Stankard's primary inspiration, he does not strive to create scientifically accurate representations of individual species. "I think of my work as referential," says Stankard. "These are not literal flowers, though it is important to make them believable. The point of my work is not to make specimens but to evoke the experience of nature."

Stankard, who is also a poet, finds great inspiration in the work of Walt Whitman. "Experiencing the plant kingdom with Whitman energizes me," he says. "I have internalized his works with my feelings to recapitulate and rework those feelings in glass. His work informs my aesthetic and elevates my expectations of myself as an artist. What Whitman did with words, I seek to do with glass on a visual level."

Kingdom of Plants is being presented to complement the retrospective exhibition *Beauty Beyond Nature: The Glass Art of Paul Stankard*, which will be on display at the nearby Museum of Glass through June of 2012. A new full-color catalog accompanies the *Beauty Beyond Nature* exhibition and provides context and interpretation through an in-depth essay by critic William Warmus and an artist interview by *Glass Quarterly* editor Andrew Page. The catalog features high-magnification photographs that reveal new levels of detail of Stankard's work.

Considered a living master in the art of the paperweight, Paul Stankard's work is represented in over 50 major museums around the world. He is a Fellow of the American Craft Council, a recipient of the Urban Glass Award – Innovation In A Glassworking Technique and was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Rowan University and Muskingum College. Stankard recently authored an autobiography titled "No Green Berries or Leaves: The Creative Journey of an Artist in Glass."

Image information: Paul Stankard, *Flowers, Fruit and Nuts*, 2010, 3.5" dia.



Located on the Tacoma's Thea Foss Waterway adjacent to the Museum of Glass, the Traver Gallery is among the country'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