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Contact: Sarah Traver: sarah@travergallery.com;
or Grace Meils: grace@travergallery.com

August/September at Traver Gallery – Tacoma

Mark Bennion: *Kalevala*

***Pilchuck Glass School: Celebrating 40 Years* (Group Exhibition)**

Exhibition Runs: July 30 – September 11, 2011

Artists' Reception: Sunday, August 7, 2011, 1 – 4 pm

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Traver Gallery – Tacoma is proud to present a group exhibition celebrating Pilchuck Glass School's 40th Anniversary. Pilchuck has played a crucial role in the creative development of many of the world's most prominent glass artists since it was established by glass artist Dale Chihuly and patrons Anne Gould Hauberg and John H. Hauberg in 1971. This celebratory exhibition will present a combination of new and historical works by world-renowned artists, all of whom have been deeply affected by their experiences with Pilchuck throughout the years. Featured artists include:

Sonja Blomdahl
Dale Chihuly
Walter Lieberman
Flora Mace and Joey Kirkpatrick
Dante Marioni
Paul Marioni
Richard Marquis
Benjamin Moore
William Morris
Charlie Parriott

Richard Royal
Ginny Ruffner
Preston Singletary
Therman Statom
Susan Stinsmuehlen-Amend
Lino Tagliapietra
Cappy Thompson
Bertil Vallien
Dick Weiss

The Traver Gallery has a long history of exhibiting work created by Pilchuck instructors, students, and staff members. For more than 20 years, Traver presented an exhibition each Fall featuring the outstanding artists who taught or worked at Pilchuck Glass School the previous summer. Through these shows, William Traver established relationships with many of the artists he represents today, and helped to launch the careers of many of the world's most reputable glass artists.

In addition to the exhibition at the Tacoma gallery, Traver Gallery will present a group exhibition featuring gallery artists who have served as instructors at Pilchuck throughout the years in a temporary exhibition space in Seattle, located at 1200 Western #200. An artist reception for this "pop-up" show will be held on Friday, August 12, from 6 – 9 pm. This exhibition is open by appointment only, outside of reception hours.

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 Wednesday – Saturday 10 – 6 and Sunday 12 – 5. For more information, please call (253) 383-3685 or visit our website at www.travergallery.com

About Pilchuck Glass School:

Pilchuck Glass School was founded in 1971 by glass artist Dale Chihuly and patrons Anne Gould Hauberg and John H. Hauberg. What began as a one-summer glassblowing workshop has grown into the world's most comprehensive center for glass art education. Thanks to the vision of the founders and the enthusiasm and dedication of all who have come to the campus, Pilchuck now hosts more than 500 students and artists each summer and is guided by a forty-one-member Board of Trustees. Pilchuck's history is filled with stories of hard work, passion, and generosity. Although much has changed since the 1970s, the original core values of the school endure: to inspire creativity, transform individuals, and build community.

In the early days, artists and students worked with makeshift equipment and inferior-quality glass, happy to be making things up as they went along. Experimentation and exploration set the tone for Pilchuck and remain hallmarks of the school today. This small but enthusiastic community knew little of traditional techniques. Through trial and error, artists invented new forms and glassworking methods, and as this continued, the studio glass movement evolved. Over time, European master glass artists and designers visited the campus and introduced traditional materials and techniques—Muranese cane making and Czech kiln casting, among others—which were eagerly assimilated. The potent combination of Old World craftsmanship, New World individual artistic expression, and highly effective teamwork that emerged has come to characterize Pilchuck today.

As the artistic program developed, so did the facilities. What started as a camp grew into a campus. Pilchuck's master plan has a quintessential Pacific Northwest feel, and the layout of the campus supports the special sense of community that is a large part of the school. The location, the climate, and the rustic environment are ideal for creating art with glass and are integral to the spirit of Pilchuck. In this remote corner of Washington State, people from all corners of the globe meet, techniques develop, and ideas form.

Pilchuck's philosophy of education flows from Dale Chihuly's original idea of "artists teaching artists." And after nearly forty years, that concept still holds true. The school believes that people everywhere thrive on creativity and can learn to cultivate their artistic talents, at any stage of life and at any point in their development as artists. In keeping with that belief, Pilchuck aims to provide a learning experience that is unrivaled in its intensity, quality of instruction, and concentration of artistic talent.