

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **February/March at Traver Gallery – Seattle**

#### **University of Washington 3D4M Faculty Exhibition (ceramic, glass, mixed media sculpture)**

**Exhibition Dates: February 16 – April 1, 2012**

Opening Reception: February 16, 5 – 8 pm

First Thursday Reception: March 1, 5 – 8 pm

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#### **University of Washington 3D4M Faculty Exhibition**

Five members of the University of Washington's 3D4M Department Faculty will be featured in a major exhibition at the Traver Gallery from February 16 – April 1. The show will present a selection of ceramic, glass and mixed media sculpture by noted artists Doug Jeck, Amie Laird McNeel, Akio Takamori, Jamie Walker and Mark Zirpel.

The recently formed 3D4M (3-Dimensional Forum) is a unique consortium that includes Ceramics, Glass and Sculpture. With extensive facilities for ceramics, wood and metal fabrication, foundry, glass, digital imaging center and two galleries, the mission of the program is to explore interdisciplinary exchanges that revolve around material study, concept and critical dialog. 3D4M emphasizes an experimental approach to materials and ideas and is centered on individual directions within the broad spectrum of contemporary art making.



The 3D4M Faculty Exhibition will be on display during the upcoming National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Conference, which is being held in Seattle from March 28 – 31, 2012. The University of Washington Ceramics Program, which has now become a part of the 3D4M Department, has been ranked in the top five by U.S. News and World Report for over a decade. Professor and Associate Director of UW's School of Art Jamie Walker sees this exhibition as an opportunity to educate potential students and the national ceramics community about the department's new approach while also showcasing the unique talents of an outstanding group of artists.

#### **Artist Bios:**

Doug Jeck earned a BFA from the Appalachian Center for Arts and Crafts, Smithville, TN and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. He taught in universities throughout the United States before joining the University of Washington ceramics program faculty in 1996. Jeck, who is known for his macabre, figurative ceramic sculptures, has shown his work in museums and galleries throughout the country.

Amie Laird McNeel received her MFA from the University of California at Berkeley, and taught sculpture at several academic institutions before joining the 3D4M Department in 2010. McNeel's most recent work, produced at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center and the Studio at The Corning Museum of Glass, combines slip cast ceramic vessel components. These forms, combined with elements of glass and fabricated steel, reflect the artist's ongoing interest in revealing flux and change in an object that appears to be in a static state.



Akio Takamori grew up in a small industrial town on Kyushu, the southernmost island of Japan. He studied at the Musashino Art University in Tokyo before apprenticing with a traditional folk potter producing utilitarian ware. He came to the United States in 1974, and studied at Kansas City Art Institute, receiving his BFA in 1976. He earned his MFA from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in 1978. His work is represented in many public collections, including the Seattle Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Henry Art Gallery, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Taipei Fine Arts Museum. He was awarded National Endowments for the Arts grants three times as well as the Flintridge Foundation Visual Artist Award and the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award.



Jamie Walker received a BA and BFA from the University of Washington and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. After five years of studio practice in Berkeley, CA, he taught briefly at San Diego State University before returning to the University of Washington as a professor in 1989. Walker's recent work has been directed by materiality, perception and chance and has included large participatory installations, concave wall bowls and petite cloud-like forms. He is intrigued by the plethora of information, both real and imagined, that can be derived from watching clouds or observing cellular structures. Jamie Walker's work has been exhibited throughout the U.S. and is included in the collections of the Seattle Art Museum, Henry Art Gallery, Racine Museum of Art, International Museum of Glass, and the Washington State Arts Commission.

Mark Zirpel received a BFA in Drawing from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and an MFA in Printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute. He has been a visiting artist at numerous institutions, including Ohio State University and the Rochester Institute of Technology. Zirpel's work, which is often installation based and kinetic, has recently explored the mechanics of sound, the human body, and celestial objects. Zirpel's work can be found in the permanent collections of the Anchorage Museum of History and Art in Alaska, the Tacoma Art Museum in Washington, and the Progressive Collection in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Image information:** Akio Takamori, *Two Women* (detail), 2012, porcelain with underglaze; Jamie Walker, *Palermo*, 2011, porcelain with underglaze; Mark Zirpel, *Rain Organ* (detail), 2011, mixed media; Amie Laird McNeel, *Keel Installation* (detail), 2011, ceramic, mixed media.

*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](http://www.travergallery.com).*