

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Allison Kramer; allison@travergallery.com

October at Traver Gallery – Tacoma

Laura de Santillana and Alessandro Diaz de Santillana:
Textures and Reflections

Exhibition Dates: October 16 – November 7, 2010

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 16, 5 – 8 pm

Laura de Santillana and Alessandro Diaz de Santillana: ***Textures and Reflections***

Traver Gallery is pleased to present *Textures and Reflections*, a joint exhibition of work by Muranese siblings Laura de Santillana and Alessandro Diaz de Santillana taking place on the heels of their three-week residency at the Museum of Glass, Tacoma.



The granddaughter and grandson of the founder of the famed Venini glassworks, the two have devoted their lives to art making in distinct ways that honor the Venini tradition of innovation. Laura's abstract sculptures are variations on squarish, flattened vessels in radiant modish hues of leaf green, amber, blue-gray, deep



chocolate brown and clear glass. Five *Text Tiles*, rectangular forms each approximately a foot in height, are embedded with folded, rumpled or fragmented wire nets filtering light through the frosted clear vessels, as though suspended apparitions. Other pieces feature sheets of silver leaf sandwiched between their walls, flattened to create variations in opacity and surprising interior qualities. With auroral glow, these works breathe energy and rest somewhere between painting, glass, textile, and architecture.

Alessandro Diaz de Santillana's work in *Textures and Reflections* is sculpted from fragments of antique Venetian window glass. Mirrored, lacquered and sometimes painted with pigment, silver- and gold-leafed panels are composed into abstract metallic wall-mounted sculpture that articulates and undulates across more than ten feet, as in *Untitled Biennale*. *Untitled Z1*, at left, straddles the antique

and the contemporary with its combination of intentionally corroded and clouded surfaces in contrast to its Modernist-leaning composition, highlighting Alessandro's keen study of materials, development and combination of techniques and unique method of expression.

Just as their grandfather Paolo Venini brought Modernist trends into glass art in the last century, two generations later Laura de Santillana and Alessandro Diaz de Santillana make us think differently about the medium once again. Mingling antiqued qualities with minimalist forms, unexpected surface treatments and surprising combinations of techniques, materials, and color, the de Santillanas bring the knowledge of a long line of Italian glassmakers to their work and marry that lineage with their own contemporary visions.

Laura de Santillana was born in Venice and studied at the School of the Visual Arts in New York. Ms. de Santillana later returned to Venice where she collaborated with her father Ludovico Diaz de Santillana at the Venini glassworks until the company was sold in 1986. In 1985, Ms. De Santillana was the recipient of Germany's Coburger Glaspreis. Her works are represented in private and public collections including the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution, New York; Corning Museum of Glass, New York; Denver Art Museum, Colorado; Kunstsammlungen der Veste Coburg, Germany; Kunstmuseum im Ehrenhof, Dusseldorf, Germany; Musée de Arts Décoratifs, Paris; Museo Vetrario di Murano, Venice; Museum of Modern Art, Sao Paulo, Brazil; and Seattle Art Museum.

Alessandro Diaz de Santillana was born in Paris and educated at the University of Venice. He joined the family firm in 1981, acted as Venini's curator of historical research for the Smithsonian Institution from 1981-1983, and subsequently took charge of research and new product development at the firm. Alessandro's work was included in the 2009 La Biennale di Venezia and is represented in private and public collections worldwide including The Corning Museum of Glass, New York; Musée des Beaux Arts, France; the Mingei International Museum, California; the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Japan; Kunstmuseum Dusseldorf, Germany; and The Singapore Museum of Art.

Image (right): *Untitled / Amber black*, 2010, blown glass, 12"h x 18.5"w x 2"d

Image (left): *Untitled / Z1*, 2009, mirrored antique Venetian glass, lacquer with pigment, gold leaf, wood, 25.5"h x 19"w x 1.75"d

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. Traver Gallery is admission-free and open to the public Wednesday-Saturday 10am – 6pm and Sunday 12 – 5pm. For more information, please call 253-383-3685 or visit our website at www.travergallery.com.