

Judith Schaechter: *Dark Matter*

September 4 - October 25, 2014

Dark Matter, Judith Schaechter's 6th solo exhibition at Claire Oliver Gallery, extends for the first time the Artist's studio practice to include both two and three dimensional works of art. The exhibition includes eight new stained glass light boxes and ten new sculptures. Here Schaechter pushes her chosen medium yet again, this time carving and gouging into kiln cast glass to create her signature obsessive detail in the round.

Schaechter asks the viewer: in the creative mind, what comes first... our ability to perceive an aesthetic as meaningful or our ability to make those important images? For Schaechter, the desire Man has to seek beauty defies rationality and common sense. It can cause one to abandon safety and self-interest in its pursuit; under beauty's influence we can become vulnerable or out of control. Schaechter creates her work striving to make it "as beautiful as I possibly can." Beauty seduces. The viewer is lured in for close inspection and, once hooked, the content behind the bling is delivered lubricated by the star struck jewel tones and obsessive pattern. "I find man-made beauty the most interesting; a flower, a rainbow or a sunset can only be itself and follow its own independent destiny which includes its inevitable demise. But art by the hand of man can address our desires both directly and eternally; it has nothing better to do, in fact," says the Artist.

For Schaechter it is clear that concept cannot be separated from process and material. Although glass is a material often associated with transparency and luminosity, the Artist deals with these aspects of the material in a new way, laying layer upon layer of colored glass one over the next to create new colors, depth and texture, much as a painter mixes pigments on a palette,

Schaechter stretches the capabilities of the material beyond what is typically associated with it. Her glass resembles soap, wax, wood and stone; it is made to appear soft and compliant rather than sharp and cutting. Glass as a transparent material denies form with its refractive surfaces and light transmitting qualities; *Dark Matter* explores new possibilities this ancient medium can surrender.

Judith Schaechter's works of art are included in the permanent collections of many of the most important museums worldwide including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC, the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C., State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, U.K. Schaechter has been included in preeminent Biennales including the Venice Biennale and the Whitney Biennial. Among other prestigious awards, Ms. Schaechter is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a USA Artists Fellowship, Joan Mitchell Award, The Pew Fellowship in the Arts and two NEA grants.



New Ghost
Stained Glass Lightbox 32 x 19 x 2 inches



Minotaur (detail)
Kiln-Cast and Hand Carved Glass
17 x 8 x 8 inches