

WEST VALLEY



Tuesday, August 29, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ART MUSEUM**

**TEXTURE AND TALES: VIGNETTES ON GLASS**  
**Carole Perry and Jim Donafrio**  
**September 22, 2006 - January 7, 2007**

**JIM DONAFRIO**

Originally from New Jersey, Jim Donafrio was a wood and metal sculptor until he met Paul Stankard through mutual friends. Paul enthusiastically started collecting Jim's work, and eventually asked Jim to work as his assistant in his glass studio. Bringing a sculpture background into glass, Jim added dimension to Paul's work. After working for Paul for seven years, Jim decided to pursue a career of his own. He moved his family to Midway, Kentucky, where he opened his own glass studio. His interest in the Southwest was incorporated into his paperweights. He introduced Indian pottery, lizards, and Southwest desert vegetation into his designs and strove to bring about realism to the glass. His intense interest in the southwest prompted him to move his family and his studio to Carefree, Arizona, in 1992. Here in the desert foothills, Jim was able to closely observe the subject matter he wanted to create.

Along with desert designs, Donafrio has included animal motifs as well as some fantasy pieces. In the future, he plans to utilize other shapes to present his paperweights. He also wants to emphasize a departure from traditional designs and bring paperweights and collectors into a new era.

After twenty-years at the torch, Donafrio is still moved to be creative and seek out those perfect scenes to capture and bring to life under glass.

**CAROLE PERRY**

Carole Perry is known for her glass "tapestry" sculptures that emphasize color and give the illusion of soft fabric. She produces each glass textile with thousands of individual glass fibers that are layered, fused together and shaped into free-flowing basket forms. Nine layers of thin glass are stacked, joined together by color, to create a pleasing pattern. The glass is carefully placed into a kiln, then gradually heated to 1500° Fahrenheit. At this temperature, the glass rods become pliable and tacky, thus fusing together to form one solid mass, yet retaining their original, individual shapes. And at this temperature, Carole hand-forms the glass into the graceful, elegant curves, unique to each sculpture.

Working at this intense temperature, her movements must be precise. She has to consider the flow of color throughout the pre-laid pattern of the piece. As she sculpts each piece, the temperature drops. Carole can not allow the glass to go lower than 1200° Fahrenheit, or the piece will crack. Once she has completed the formation of each sculpture, it is returned to the kiln gradually reduced to room temperature, in a process called annealing. What is so amazing about the finished piece is that it looks woven. Literally

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is an admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.

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thousands of thin glass rods are placed together to create the illusion. Employing the 3 glass types - opaque, translucent and transparent - invites a unique play of light throughout the finished surface of the sculpture. An exciting interaction of light, reflected light and shadow moves across the surface.

Once Carole has completed the formation of each sculpture, it is returned to the kiln gradually reduced to room temperature, in a process called annealing. Each sculpture is unique and cannot be duplicated.

"If someone had told me I'd be making my living as an artist I would have laughed," she says from her Cave Creek home and studio. A former vice president of marketing for high-tech companies, Perry has collected glass for years and found her calling at a "glass camp" she attended in 1990 in the Pacific Northwest. Immediately intrigued, she left the corporate world and eventually teamed up with Don Carroll. Together they founded the glass shop Laughing Glass Studio in 1999.



Jim Donafrio

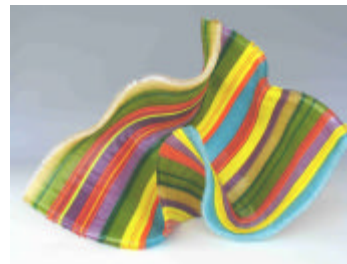


Carole Perry

Reporters:  
Glass studio -  
480-488-6070



"Blue Jay and Caterpillar" glass globe by Jim Donafrio



"Cirque du Soleil" glass sculpture by Carole Perry

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