

As seen in the  
October 2011 issue of

 AMERICAN  
*art* COLLECTOR



## UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 15 works

October 7-29, 2011

Blue Rain Gallery

130 Lincoln Avenue

Santa Fe, NM 87501

(505) 954-9902

• SHOW LOCATION SANTA FE, NM

## RIK ALLEN

# Adrift

The latest glass and metal sculptures of Rik Allen give rise to infinite space possibilities. Driven by his life-long fascination with technology and science and sci-fi, Allen's pieces are born from layout sketches that become blueprints for his intricate work.

*Adrift*, Allen's aptly titled second solo show at Blue Rain Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is suggestive of his recent creations, several of which are off the ground in a flying pose, especially the rockets. The title also is reflective of his general approach to the show, bouncing between sketchbooks and ideas. "I definitely felt a little *adrift* at times," muses Allen.

Collectors may recognize the sculptor's reoccurring theme of placing a solitary chair inside his blown glass and metal works. Another common theme found on his new ships and rockets is pipe-organ type thrusters with each extension off the back seemingly explored further and further. A slight deviation is noted in a few figurative pieces suggestive of astronauts floating in space, *adrift*.

"The figurative are divergent from the pieces from last year and they're pretty exciting," says Allen. "The figurative sculptural glass pieces look really good. I'm happy with them."

The majority of the Washington artist's works are blown glass covered in a silver foil that's melted into the surface of the glass. Ideas start in his sketchbook and hot glass studio. With the design and engineering laid out, he then makes a prototype. Then the glassblowing begins.

"I start out often using a bubbly surface on the inside to create a big field of bubbles. Aesthetically, it's interesting. I see it as a reflection of the star fields," explains Allen. "As the glass gets stretched and pulled the bubbles have this blur of light that almost illustrate motion."



CARNOT CRUISER, GLASS, SILVER,  
10 X 11 X 10½"  
PHOTO BY KPSTUDIOS



Rik Allen's Washington state studio is jammed with parts from scrap yards and found objects that he transforms into intricate fine glass and metal works.



MARSEA SEVEN, GLASS, SILVER, 16 X 16 X 9"

### *The Gallery Says . . .*

**"Rik Allen's glass and metal sculptures are the essence of invention. They embrace an aesthetic that suggests they have traveled through time from both past and future to meet us in the present. To contemplate the work of Rik Allen is to surrender to a world of infinite possibilities."**

*—Denise Marie Rose,  
Vice President of Business Development, Blue Rain Gallery*

Often the main body is glass supporting structures in metal. For the last phase he adds a layer of silver on the entire piece and treats the outside surface with a variety of oxide glass powders to achieve the effect of distressed metal and weathered surfaces.

"Working with metals and assembling pieces from parts allows

me to expand sculpturally, especially in regard to doing interior work," says Allen. "Most of the work I make is supposed to convey a sense of humor and I hope that gets through." ●

*For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to*

[www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)