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MODERN AND PLAYFUL

*Nancy Callan Opens "Seventh-Inning Stretch" on July 3
Pittsburgh Glass Center's Newest Exhibition*

NEWS FACTS

- Retrospective exhibition of Nancy Callan's glass art from 2001 – 2008.
- First time solo exhibition for Seattle glass artist Nancy Callan in Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Callan will present a free lecture on Wednesday, July 1 at 6pm at PGC.
- Opening reception for the exhibition will be held on Friday, July 3 from 6 to 9pm.
- Exhibition runs from June 3 to Sept. 20, 2009 at Pittsburgh Glass Center.

PITTSBURGH, PA... Expect to laugh and smile while viewing "Seventh-Inning Stretch," a new glass art exhibition at Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC) featuring the work of Nancy Callan from the last seven years, 2001 – 2008. Callan's blown glass combines the complexity and elegance of the Venetian tradition with the wit and aesthetic sensibility of a contemporary artist. "Seventh-Inning Stretch" will be on display in the Hodge Gallery from July 3 to September 20, 2009. A free opening reception with the artist will be held on Friday, July 3 from 6 to 9pm.

Based in Seattle, Wash., Callan is highly influenced by pop culture and her work references sources such as comic books, children's toys and high fashion in her ongoing series.

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“Rich in craft and technique, these works build upon the past to create forms and patterns that are both modern and playful. Callan represents a generation of glass artists that have come from the hot shops and classrooms of the pioneers of the studio glass movement, she herself studying, teaching with and assisting such prominent artists as Lino Tagliapietra, Ginny Ruffner, and Josaiah McElheny. The variety of ideas and shapes presented in the exhibition speak to her own unique voice in the field, and the ways in which the artist’s sensibilities and the working of glass are inseparably linked,” said Art Martin, collections manager and assistant curator for Muskegon Museum of Art located in Muskegon, MI. “Seventh-Inning Stretch” is on display at Muskegon Museum of Art through May 24, 2009.

Intrigued by the relationship between textiles and glass, Callan created a series called Winkles to explore the potential of Venetian cane techniques to create complex patterns. The tall forms are called Winkles after Rip Van Winkle’s long stocking cap.

Bee Buoys and Bee Butts are two playful series of wall and table sculptures inspired by the bumblebee. The Bee Buoys can float—and spin on their rounded bottoms.

The Stingers possess an air of comedy, made slightly menacing by their pointy cone. Each unique sculpture sports a bold color combination inspired by the costume of a comic book super-hero.

Several works of art including Winkles, Bee Buoys, Bee Butts, and Stingers will be on display at PGC through Sept. 20, 2009.

Callan will give a free lecture about her art at PGC on Wednesday, July 1 at 6pm. The public is welcome to attend. Her lecture is a part of the Summer Lecture Series at PGC. Callan is also teaching an advanced glassblowing class with Katherine Gray at PGC from June 29 – July 3.

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About Nancy Callan

Since receiving a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1996 and relocating to Seattle, Nancy Callan has been a rising star in the international glass scene.

“My work explores the notion of play as an important component in creativity. It is also a dialogue with the challenging medium of blown glass. I am influenced by the bright colors and inflated shapes found in comic books and toys, and by the playful spirit of the unconscious mind. While creating each piece, I try to balance the fluidity of hot glass with the sense of wonder and fun I felt the first time I gathered from the furnace. I believe play is essential not only for the artist but for everyone. When we daydream or play games, we return to our childlike state of mind, where we are free to explore and imagine. This simple joy is a counterweight to our busy lives, and is central to my artistic process,” said Callan.

About Pittsburgh Glass Center

Pittsburgh Glass Center is a nonprofit, public access glass school, studio and gallery dedicated to teaching, creating and promoting glass art. A growing arts organization in the region, PGC is bringing new life to Pittsburgh’s glass art legacy and maintaining the momentum brought to the region by Dale Chihuly and Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass 2007. Learn more about the Pittsburgh Glass Center by visiting our Web site at www.pittsburghglasscenter.org or by calling 412-365-2145.

Hodge Gallery Summer Hours: Monday, Friday and Saturday 10am – 4pm, Tuesday – Thursday 10am – 7pm and closed Sunday.

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