

Mixed mediums

EXHIBIT / HAWK GALLERIES

Glass treasures inviting, diverse

By Nancy Gilson
For The Columbus Dispatch

From decorated birds to colorful woodland scenes and tapestry-like sculptures, the current exhibit at Hawk Galleries offers a variety of discoveries in glass.

The well-titled “Treasures in a Technicolor Space,” continuing through June 3, presents the newest creations of five diverse artists.

Shane Fero of North Carolina began blowing glass as a teenager. Now in his 60s, he creates blown-glass birds upon which he fuses decorated shards. The charming birds are often presented in family-type groupings — as with “The Golden Nest,” in which three adult birds, decorated in shades of red and gold, peer into a nest with tiny eggs.

Fero also creates large vessels with intricate birds perched atop like bottle stoppers. The red “Imperial Pheasant Vessel” is adorned with black Chinese-looking letters and topped with the detailed bird of the title.

Stephen Powell, who heads the glass department at Centre College in



“Manic Torrid Rothko,” fused glass led wall panel, by Stephen Powell at the Hawk Galleries

Danville, Kentucky, is represented with large bulbous sculptures (“screamers”) and rectangular glass panels (“zoomers”).

Powell’s titles for each work are equally entertaining. “Manic Torrid Rothko,” one of the zoomers, conjures the title’s abstract artist with its vivid blues, greens and tans — a piece as elegant as a Persian tapestry.

J. David Norton, a former hairdresser and salon owner in Akron, entered

the medium through stained glass. As he looked at stacked pieces, he liked the sense of depth — and so began painting on layers of glass. Each of his works is a woodland scene lighted from behind to accentuate the depth and details of the trees. “A Golden Afternoon” is akin to taking an autumn walk in the woods.

Joshua Hershman, in his 30s, was born without peripheral vision or depth perception. Through years of

therapy, he became fascinated with the visual system as well as the science of light and optics. His works — just three pieces in this show — are cast-glass cameras, including “Invention of Color,” a rainbow-colored camera hung by a leather strap.

The irony in his work: He uses an instrument that captures images as the image itself, then plays with it in the very different medium of glass.



“Invention of Color,” cast glass, painted and polished, by Joshua Hershman at the Hawk Galleries

At a glance

■ “Treasures in a Technicolor Space” continues through June 3 at Hawk Galleries, 153 E. Main St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. Call 614-225-9595, or visit www.hawkgalleries.com.

The artist working in the most detail and miniature of settings is Alison Ruzsa, who creates glass egg shapes or globes filled with trees and tiny figures. These small worlds, including “Through the Woods” and “Bazille’s Ghost/The Things,” are placed on turntables. Lighting from beneath allows viewers to inspect them from above, below and all around.

“I enjoy the idea of creating a painting which can be looked at from more than one point of view,” Ruzsa said. “This reminds me that there is always more than one way to look at life.”

The thought applies as well to the works of all five artists in this diverse and fascinating exhibit.

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