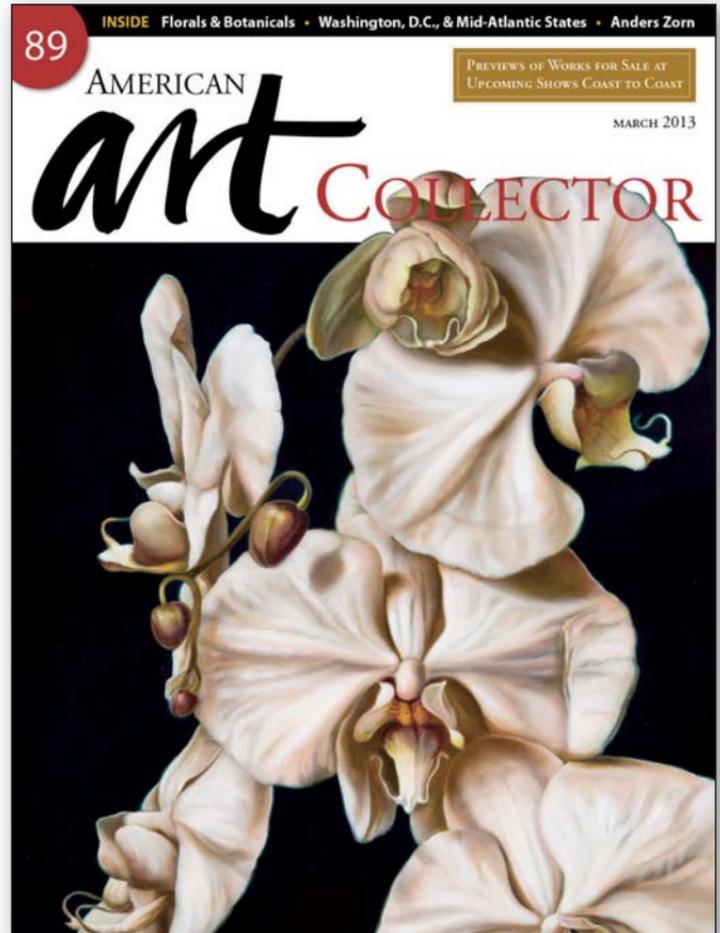


As seen in the  
March 2013 issue of

 AMERICAN  
*art* COLLECTOR



## UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 10 works

March 14-23, 2013

Blue Rain Contemporary

4164 N. Marshall Way

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(480) 874-8110

• SHOW LOCATION SCOTTSDALE, AZ

# SHELLEY MUZYLOWSKI ALLEN

## Archetypal animal forms

Shelley Muzylowski Allen's glass sculptures look as if they could have been unearthed in the caves of Lascaux or Chauvet that bear the sophisticated animal paintings of some of our earliest ancestors. Using the ancient technique of glassblowing with stylistic influences from the distant past and 17<sup>th</sup>-century Japan, her animals and vessels are "a meditation on these archetypal animal forms who have had presence throughout human history and can embody the basic needs of the human psyche."

Allen literally gives her work the breath of life as she blows air into molten glass imposing her will on the medium while still giving it room to be itself. Her paintings of horses demonstrate her command of representation and her knowledge of horse anatomy allowing her freedom to interpret and to stylize her forms when working in glass.

The horse has been a utilitarian companion to mankind for thousands of years and "has been associated with worship and magic, some reaching divine status or vitality in mythology," Allen exclaims.

The elegantly simple *Gilded Horse Netsuke Pot* is made of blown and sculpted glass with leather and horsehair. The horse stopper refers to tiny Japanese netsuke sculptures of animals that were often used as fasteners for clothing and decorative containers. The organic leather and horsehair are in contrast but complement the once organic and molten glass of the sculpture to which they're attached.

A similar vessel, *Cerulean Paint Pot*, demonstrates Allen's mastery of the medium beyond the making of forms. The complex layers of colors suggest a celestial being beginning to manifest as an earthly presence. Her animal forms often are referred to as avatars. In Hinduism, an avatar is a representation of a deity coming to earth.

Like Allen, the ancient Celts saw the horse as more than a beast of burden. It ranked high in their symbolic life. Through it, there was a direct link to the spiritual world. ●



Gilded Horse Netsuke Pot, blown glass, horsehair and leather, 36 x 15 x 11"

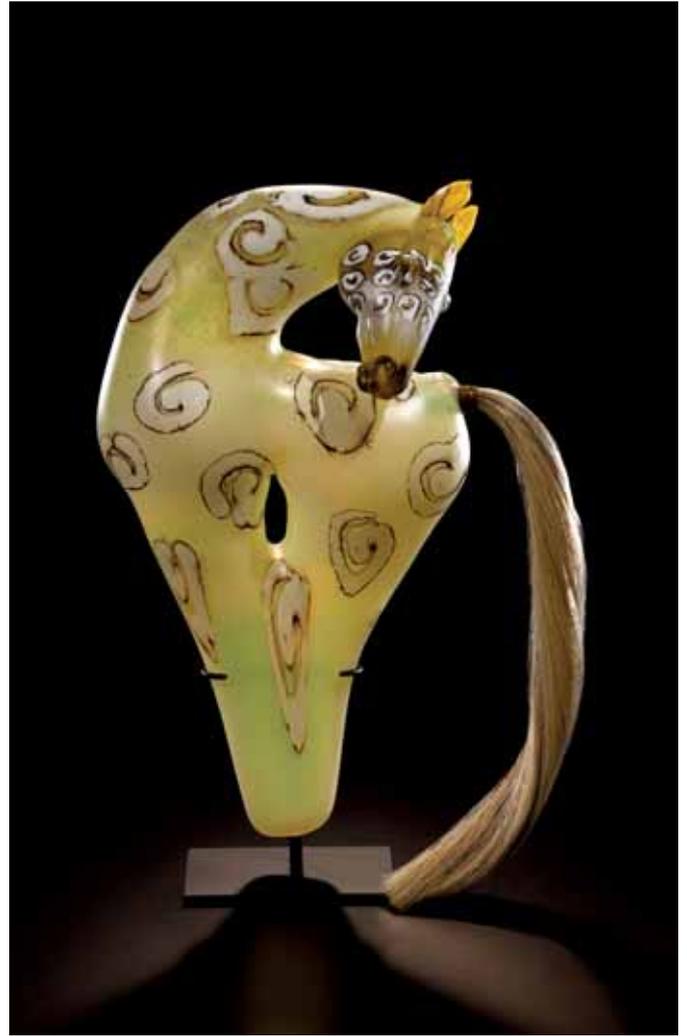
For a direct link to the  
exhibiting gallery go to



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



Cerulean Paint Pot, blown glass, horsehair and leather, 25 x 13 x 10"



Triton, blown glass, horsehair and leather, 21 x 14 x 6"



Horse Stepping on a Swallow, blown glass, horsehair, leather and steel, 14 x 22 x 6"

### *The Gallery Says . . .*

"Shelley Muzyłowski Allen creates unique sculptures in glass with an emphasis on form, color and texture. Her work is imbued with as much strength and personality as the creatures that she portrays, making each piece a pleasure to behold and desirable among collectors."

— Denise Phetteplace, *Blue Rain Contemporary*