

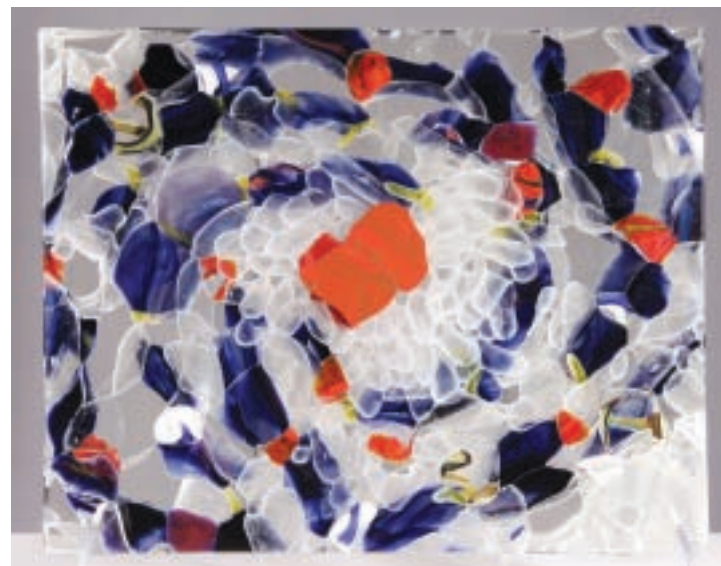
RASgalleries presents Synergy of Style 2010

by Diana Greenwood

RASgalleries, Yountville's prestigious art glass and original fine art gallery, located at 6540 Washington Street, will burst into the summer season with vivid flashes of color and the illusion of motion in new sculptural artistry in glass by Mark Levy and the new works of renowned fine artist, Jean-Pierre de Rothschild. Both artists break barriers; drawing from life experiences and the power of nature's influence to create contemporary masterpieces. "Synergy of Style 2010" opens on Saturday, May 15, 2010 with an artist reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and the show will continue to inspire through the end of June.



WORLDS Cast glass by Mark Levy 7" w x 17" h x 2" d



BLUE NEBULA Cast glass by Mark Levy 16" w x 12.5" h x 1" d

Mark Levy believes that glass is magical and mysterious. A master glass artist, Levy's passion for thick, fused cast glass is evident in rich, overlapping layers of bottomless colors and textures that dance and swirl, suspended with delight in his sculptures. Each original work seems to move and change as light reflects upon the composition, until one is immersed and mesmerized by the complexity of the design. Levy's judicious use of dichroic glass stringers, heated into shapes that are inspired by stellar nebulae or creatures of the sea, creates a sparkle that defies the laws of gravity and time.

With a diverse background from etching and printmaking to photography and Cleo-award winning television commercials, Mark Levy left the corporate world to follow a stronger voice. He moved to Northern California and his experiences in the exploration of the sea, as well as an enthrallment with Astronomy, led him to discover the center of his world, turning his complete attention and love toward thick fused cast glass. One of very few contemporary artists casting in America, the process is a meticulous yet gratifying one for Levy.

Like the early glass masters of Europe, Levy begins with a spark of an idea, a simple sketch, a 2000-degree furnace and handfuls of colored pieces of glass that are placed into the fire. The pieces, called "trails" are then scooped from the furnace onto a steel table then moved to an annealing kiln. Trails are the heart of Levy's sculptures and can be used as background color or as the subject matter itself. Additional pieces of cast, broken, blown or powdered glass are added to the mix and once all components are assembled, bricks are placed in the kiln to form an outline for the piece. Levy then begins to build, layer by layer, shape by shape, until satisfied. The kiln is closed and heated to temperatures above 1400 degrees, sometimes for two to three weeks. When the piece is removed, Levy uses stone tools and diamond-covered wheels to carve, shape and polish, trusting his

training and intuition, appreciating the science and technology of the process, and in awe of the limitless possibilities for the medium. Mark Levy's art is captivating and he's currently casting borosilicate glass that allows large glass sculptures to be displayed outside.

"The work I do is like painting or sculpture in three dimensions only I'm working with liquid color," said Levy. "The effects are dramatically different and although I like working small, I'm heading in a new direction with scale, creating larger pieces that demand a location. One new piece for the RASgalleries show is four feet tall, architectural sculpture in Pyrex with vivid reds and yellows. It commands attention."

Jean-Pierre de Rothschild is sometimes identified with admiration as an "Outsider." A term associated with extraordinary talent, "Outsider" primarily refers to self-taught artists who capture on canvas the emotion and evolution of life experiences, where inward reflection, the bounty of nature, ever-changing light particles, and even isolation and rejection of the typical demands of the corporate world serve as inspiration.

French native, Jean-Pierre de Rothschild was educated in British schools in both economics and astrophysics and was originally an international banker prior to picking up his palette knife at the age of 35. He learned a great deal by studying the European masters and today creates bold and brave surreal-abstract and impressionistic works in one of two studios located in the San Francisco Bay Area and Paris. One can see the part that the mysterious structure of the universe plays in his paintings. Working primarily in oil with liberal use of the knife, Jean-Pierre's work is like light splitting into colors, the energy and character and spirit of each subject alive with optimism. Like the masters, de Rothschild mixes ground glass with his last few coats of varnish to enhance the vibrancy of color, the glass acting as a prism, reflecting light and creating a depth and beauty into which you can sink your soul. Jean-Pierre de Rothschild's work is highly sought after by international collectors and new work planned for "Synergy of



VASE en BLEU VERRE Oil painting by Jean-Pierre de Rothschild 36" w x 24" h

Style 2010" at RASgalleries has never before been seen.

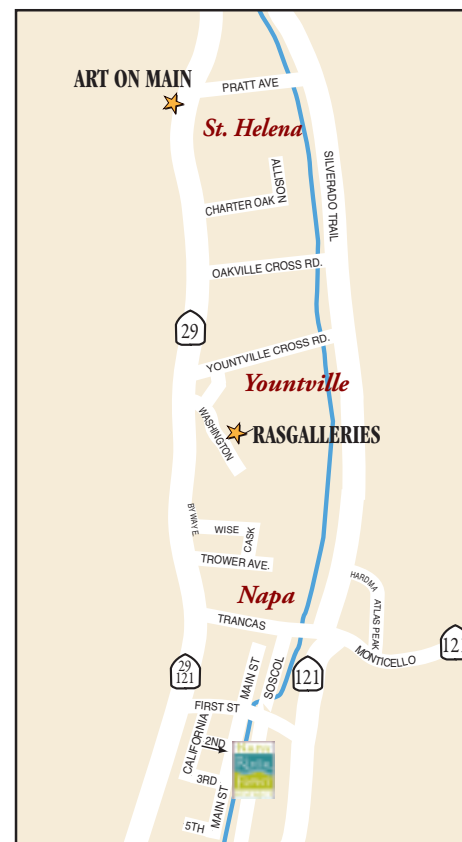
RASgalleries owner, Ronda Schaer, selected the two artists for "Synergy of Style 2010" because the amalgamation of Mark Levy's cast sculptural glass and de Rothschild's oils is electric. When viewed in tandem, pattern and color and motion accentuate the energy and passion of each piece. "Both Levy and de Rothschild have a deep respect and fascination for the sea," said Schaer. "The onset of summer with its long, sultry days, gardens in full bloom and the lure of water with its seductive properties, is the perfect time to feature these artists who are influenced and driven by all of nature's wonder."

RASgalleries, located at 6540 Washington Street in Yountville, Napa Valley, California, may be reached by calling (707) 944-9211.



FLEURS JAUMES Oil painting by Jean Pierre de Rothschild 16" w x 16" h

RASgalleries is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday by appointment. Established more than 20 years ago, the gallery represents several hundred recognized American artists with a focus on dynamic and unique contemporary and traditional art glass.



CAST GLASS by
Mark Levy

OIL PAINTINGS by
Jean-Pierre de Rothschild

Synergy of Style 2010

ARTIST RECEPTION:
SATURDAY, MAY 15, 5 PM - 7 PM

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