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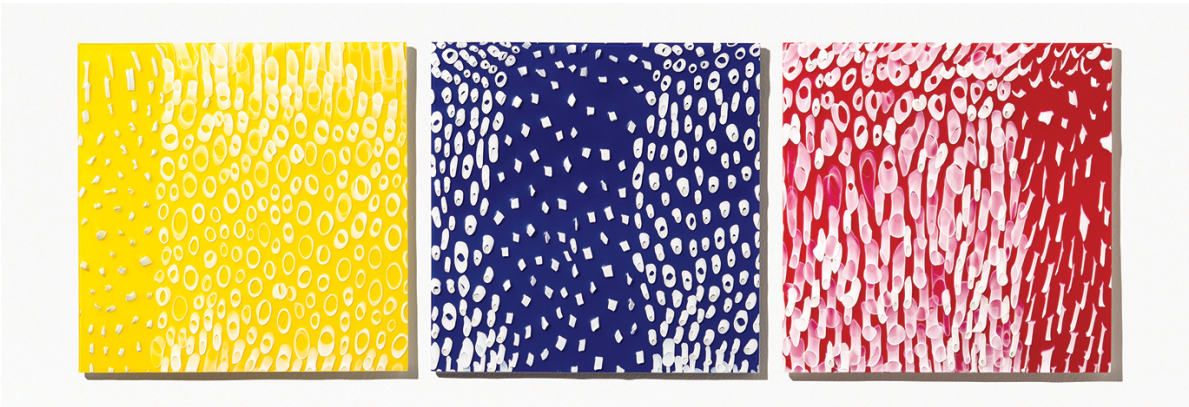
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NANCY CALLAN | *Dialogues*

June 23 – August 14, 2020

(opening online June 19, 2020)



YELLOW/BLUE/RED TRIPTYCH, 2020, blown and slumped glass, 19 x 60 x 1 in.

New York -- Heller Gallery is pleased to announce our representation of Nancy Callan, and the opening of *Dialogues*, our first solo exhibition featuring her most recent body of work.

Callan's studio practice is deeply informed by the Venetian glass-working traditions in which she was trained. The focal point of our *Dialogues* exhibition is an 8-part installation of her glass cane drawings titled *Drawings in Nature*. The black and white patterns, many of which Callan innovated over the past several years, have a graphic quality, which belies the intentionality required to draw with glass. Two solo panels, *Black Mirror* and *Webs*, and three sculptural objects round out the selection of black & white pieces included in the exhibition. Callan's bold use of color is represented in the exhibition by two primary color triptychs, one of wall panels (*Yellow/Blue/Red Triptych*) and one of her *Droplets*.

Callan says that 'the techniques of cane and *murrine* form a visual vocabulary with vast possibilities. By innovating with these techniques, I engage in dialogue with the rich history of glass, as well as with drawing, painting and other sculptural materials. This conversation is most visible in *Drawings in Nature*, an installation of wall panels

in black and white. Dense linear textures, irregular paths and spiraling growth rings reference the natural world as filtered through the prism of glass.'

Though Callan describes the process used to make her work as 'mysterious and complex,' she delights in and puzzles through her lexicon of techniques to often arrive at minimalist (*Dark Matter Orb*) and hypnotically meditative (such as *Black Mirror*) pieces. New York Times art critic, Roberta Smith, wrote that 'glass works force you to think about how form and process achieve meaning on their own,' and suggests that 'it is about discipline, curiosity and risk, and a seductive, volatile, magical medium pushed to extremes.' Nancy Callan's work answers in kind.

Nancy Callan received her BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1996. Her work is represented in the permanent collections of the Shanghai Museum of Art, Shanghai, China, the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY, Chrysler Museum of Art, the Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA, the Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI, and the Museum of Northwest Art, La Connor, WA, as well as in numerous private collections. Her work will be featured in the upcoming exhibition *Venice and American Studio Glass*, at the Stanze del Vetro museum in Venice, Italy.

Callan has taught advanced glassblowing workshops at pre-eminent craft schools and glass centers in the United States and internationally, including at the Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, WA, UrbanGlass in New York, NY, Haystack Mountain School in Deer Isle, ME, Penland School of Crafts in Ashville, NC and the Pittsburgh Glass Center, in Pittsburgh, PA. Between 1996-2015 Callan was a key member of Italian Maestro Lino Tagliapietra's glassblowing team and collaborates with New York City designer Lindsey Adelman. She is a past Fellow of the Creative Glass Center of America, and has been in residence at the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY, the Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA, and The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA.