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Anna Skibska creates amazing feats of scale with tiny glass strands

By JOSEPH GALLIVAN Issue date: Tue, Apr 18, 2006

abstract blobs that remind one of UFOs.

Seattle home.

than shatter.

the way she likes it.

third show there.

Theseus and the labyrinth.)

retains her Polish accent.

thought, 'This glass is a 3D drawing!' "



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webs

Anna Skibska's sculptures take some hanging. These intricate glass

latticeworks are usually suspended from the ceiling by filament, such

diamond forms. They may be literal forms — a chair, a ladder — or

"That means the balance wasn't right!" she says by phone from her

you might think — touch them gently and they quiver and bounce rather

Although an assistant does some of the glass stretching, Skibska has been unable to teach others how to weld together the 2 mm glass rods

She's had one residency at Bullseye — they developed the glass rods

just for her, to save her stretching all the glass by hand — and this is her

She, too, has hit upon a way of making beauty, consistently. Her show, which opens at Bullseve this Friday and runs through July 29, consists

Skibska is French-German, born and raised in Poland, and speaks five languages. She has been in the United States for nearly nine years and

"Glass artist" is too craftsy for her. She prefers sculptor working with

glass. Her degrees are in architecture and painting. She was a painter until an epiphany when she saw a broken pane of glass by a trash bin in

Poland. "The silver white edges reminded me of medieval silverpoint, which were the sterling silver pens used in medieval drawings before

"I've seen so many strange things. In one house they suspended a

piece of my work just above the gas stove, so all the grease was directly

lead pencils. They left a specific, three-dimensional mark. And I

For a perfectionist, she has a great sense of humor.

of 16 pieces, lit spectacularly, and is called "No Exit." This is a meditation on the idea that exits and entries are the same thing, seen

from two different angles. (It's partly inspired by the Greek myth of

The structures have an architectural feel. And they are not as fragile as

So she was surprised to hear that the owner of one of her pieces occasionally found bits that had fallen off of it on his living room floor.

that with dramatic lighting, they hover and glow like ghostly

The Tribune



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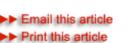




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on it."



She didn't tell them what to do.

"I am not the perfect one. I have a Tomi Ungerer drawing, I know I'm supposed to keep it out of the light but I framed it because it gives me so much joy. It's so beautiful I want to see it every day."

Email Joseph Gallivan

Anna Skibska When: Opens 10 a.m. Friday, April 21, then 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, through July 29 Where: Bullseye Gallery, 300 N.W. 13th Ave., 503-227-0222, www.bullseyeglass.com Cost: Free









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