

**Visual Arts listings for the week of Wednesday,
December 8 thru Tuesday, December 14.**

BY RICHARD SPEER 243-2122 ext. 313

To be considered for listings, send information at least two weeks in advance to:

Visual Arts, c/o Willamette Week, 822 SW 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97205.
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one review

WW PICK BULLSEYE If you're one who looks down on glasswork as more craft than art, head to Bullseye Connection, where **Mark Zirpel's** *Celestial/Terrestrial* will convert your pooh-pooing into pom-pomming. For those who don't normally include Bullseye in their First Thursday rounds, the show will come as a surprise: imaginatively curated, superbly lit, and challenging both formally and thematically.

The show is on the gallery's second floor, but once you've ascended the staircase, you feel as though you've descended into a dungeon. The slightly spooky, warehouse-like space is dark as a cave (even the walls are painted black), except for small pockets of light illuminating Zirpel's kiln-formed glass. The Seattle artist is intrigued with the timeless opposition of mind and nature and the way the two manifest themselves in light and dark, man-made and earth-born.

The minimal yet intricate glassworks--by turns nubby, smooth, and undulating--juxtapose moonscapes and sand dunes, protrusions and indentions, atop opaque planes that seem lit from within. Shadowplay abounds: A work called *Eclipse* is lit by a halogen that gradually casts its beam across a convex, sliced-sphere surface, evoking the lunar eclipse of the piece's title.

This effect, though nifty, is nothing compared to the elaborate installation pieces in the gallery's center. *Heart/Lung (bagpipe)* is a truly odd Rube Goldberg device comprising an enormous beaker connected by tube to a water-bearing container, which alternately drains, then fills. As the water reaches a certain level, it triggers a kazoo- or bagpipe-like instrument to bleat out a tragicomic moan. It's a strange flatulence, some sort of simulated organic metabolism contained in a wholly man-made apparatus of unknown purpose. Such an incorporation of sophisticated design into a near-comic gastric simulacrum perfectly expresses the artist's fascination with dichotomy and integration. (Richard Speer) 300 NW 13th Ave., 227-0222.

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