



WILLIAM MORRIS (b. 1957)

Suspended Artifact

Signed underneath, "William Morris, 1994"

cast glass

30 x 26 x 10 in.

1994

18476

PROVENANCE:

Private Collection, California

There are many reasons why William Morris has enjoyed a terrific career in the modern studio-glass movement. Incredibly dexterous, with outstanding technical skills, Morris was a gaffer (the glassblower responsible for shaping the glassware) for Dale Chihuly and, along with artists Ross Richmond, Trumaine Mason, Rick Allen and Randy Walker, Morris has helped propel the modern glass movement to the heights which the medium now enjoys in present-day recognition.

Born in Carmel, California, William Morris was educated at California State University and Central Washington University. At the center of his iconography, the artist focuses on culture and its intersection with nature, "offering a kind of communing with how earlier peoples have employed imagery of the animals that surround them to think about the aura of nature. Hence, representing animals has become Morris' foremost pursuit since 1990. The artist, in fact, sees the animals he portrays as possessors of some spark of the divine, tools themselves to explore deeper implications of our own humanity.

Also depicting many other forms, including objects such as vessels, piles of bones, tools and implements, like an alchemist Morris uses his craft of cajoling glass, effect by effect, to forge magical transformations. His materials in fact appear to transcend their physical and chemical properties. In his most accomplished endeavors, Morris has laid out entire panels of cast objects in planar compositions and yielded bedazzling effects of imagery on a grand scale.

In 2005 William Morris received the Master of the Medium Award by the James Renwick Alliance, preceded three years earlier by the Artist as Hero Award from the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia. Examples of his work are in the collections of the American Craft Museum in New York, the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Milwaukee Art Center, the Seattle Art Museum, the Portland {Oregon} Art Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, amongst many others.

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