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September at the Traver Gallery – Seattle

Jay Macdonell: *Phototropism*

Nadia Arditti: *Moonlight*

Exhibition Dates: September 5 - 28, 2008

Opening Reception: First Thursday, September 4, 5 – 8 pm

Nadia Arditti: *Moonlight*

The Traver Gallery is proud to introduce the celebrated Turkish sculptor Nadia Arditti in her first solo exhibition with the gallery. *Moonlight* showcases a selection of the artist's sentimental, crescent-moon inspired bronzes. Incorporating winged bodies on the verge of flight, immortals drifting away on wind and waves, and figures dancing with the moon, Arditti's sculptures urge the viewer to forsake the weighty material world for the loftier, spiritual universe.

The crescent-moon shape, which is the basis of most of the sculptures presented in the show, symbolizes the Ottoman past of Arditti's native Istanbul, while also referring to the cycles of nature, light in the darkness of nighttime and the human ability to dream.

According to Turkish art historian Ahmet Kamil Goren, "Arditti has a range of themes in her public works and private sculptures, with a particular emphasis on romantic ones. Many instances in her life as a wife and mother, the earthquake of 1999 and the Istanbul synagogue bombings she experienced first hand, have all lead to many questions and a transformation for the artist. These experiences led her to investigate her ideas about humanity and the value of human life, and inspired her to create work where the subjects are able to take on wings and fly toward other places and universes."

Nadia Arditti began her artistic career as a painter, but has been working primarily with bronze since discovering a deep passion for the material in 1992. Bronze, for Arditti, represents stability and immortality in the face of a transitory life. She uses the "lost wax" technique, and applies her colorful patinas personally in her studio in Istanbul.

Arditti is well known for her large-scale public art projects, which are installed throughout Europe and was presented to the Queen of England in 2003 on the occasion of the inauguration of her sculpture "Soaring Wings" at the Cass Business School in London. Nadia's smaller scale work is included in many major public and private collections, and she has been featured in numerous exhibitions in galleries throughout the world.

Located one block north of the Seattle Art Museum, the Traver Gallery is one of the country's premier exhibition spaces for contemporary studio glass, painting, sculpture, and installation art. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Friday 10 – 6, Saturday 10 – 5, and Sunday 12 – 5. For more information, please call (206) 587-6501 or visit our website at www.travergallery.com.

