

## **RIK ALLEN**

### **Bio**

Rik Allen was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and has a B.A. in Anthropology from Franklin Pierce University (NH). In 1995, Rik came to the Northwest to work at Pilchuck Glass School, and also become a member of the William Morris sculpture team, specializing in engraving, cutting, and finishing glass sculpture for 12 years.

In 2005, Rik established a glass and sculpture studio with his wife, artist Shelley Muzykowski Allen at their property in Skagit County, Washington. In addition to being an artists, Rik and Shelley have taught internationally at the Toyama Institute of Glass in Toyama, Japan, and the International Glass Festival in Stourbridge, England. They have also taught nationally, including the Penland School of Craft, Pittsburgh Glass Center, and at Pilchuck.

Rik has had solo exhibitions of his sculptural work and installations throughout the country, including Seeker at the Museum of Northwest Art, La Conner, Washington, Innersphere at the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame, and at Blue Rain Gallery, Traver Gallery, and Thomas Riley Galleries. His current series of work has been in the form of spacecraft, rockets, and scientific apparatus. While many of Rik's pieces have a reference to his curiosity for science, they also convey humor, simple narratives, and a lightheartedness that is embodied in much of science fiction's antiquated vision of the future.

His work has been featured and reviewed in American Craft Magazine, American Art Collector, Glass Art Magazine, and Launch Magazine, and is held in national and international private collections.

## **Statement**

The futuristic antiquity of this series was inspired by my life-long fascination with the design of technology-especially the "new" technology of foregone years. I've tried to convey an element of cinematic grace and movement in these ships. A wonderment of the potential marriage of design and science first infected me as boy reading science fiction stories, watching NASA launches on television, seeing futuristic films, and spending long hours in the creative playroom of my own imagination. I've been drawing rockets for as long as I can remember, and their power of their image has carried me to the work you see today.

This work, made of glass and metal, shows two dimensions within the form of these spacecrafts. Rockets are literally transportive, but the transparency of these vessels exposes a system of energy- like the plasma of a red giant or the molecular thermodynamics of an electrochemical cell. This duality may symbolize the journey of exploration of the outer extreme, while the answers are within it's own core. They take us on separate journeys within our own imaginations.