



EXPANSIVE EXHIBITION OF MORE THAN 50 WORKS BY DESIGNER JEFF ZIMMERMAN TO OPEN IN FEBRUARY AT R & COMPANY

New York, NY—January 6, 2022—R & Company will open an expansive exhibition of more than 50 works by New York-based designer Jeff Zimmerman on February 3, 2022. Zimmerman has long been a forerunner in collectible design, shaping the genre of contemporary lighting and driving the market for collectible lighting works. The exhibition, titled *Jeff Zimmerman: New Work*, marks his sixth solo exhibition with R & Company, as part of an ongoing two-decade long collaboration with the gallery. The exhibition captures the range and dynamism of the designer’s glass practice, including illuminated hanging sculptures, variously scaled and magnificently colored vessels, and wall works that behave like three-dimensional collages comprised of numerous individual pieces.

Trained in the classical Venetian approach to glass blowing, Zimmerman has pushed the boundaries of glassmaking for over three decades, producing sculptural objects that actively engage with the experience of light, color, and the natural environment. His approach, which emphasizes the aesthetic and emotional experience of functional objects, has inspired a generation of lighting designers. The works in the upcoming exhibition were created predominantly between 2020 and 2021, highlighting Zimmerman’s ongoing experimentation within the process of making. *Jeff Zimmerman: New Work* will remain on view through April 22, 2022.



Jeff Zimmerman, “Vine” illuminated sculpture, 2019.
Photography Courtesy R & Company

Raised at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Colorado, Zimmerman’s early exposure to nature remains a vital force in his work. Patterns found in the natural world, from the microscopic division of cells to the star formations in the cosmos, often serve as essential points of inspiration for Zimmerman’s creative investigations and artistic interpretations. His wall-mounted sculptures, often presented in clusters, engage in particular with the repetition and singularity of forms inherent to nature. His acclaimed *Vine* illuminated sculptures embrace the grace and beauty of organic forms, as curving lines extend outward in both small and monumental scales.

Zimmerman has also been influenced by the conceptual approaches of artists such as Maya Lin, Kiki Smith, and Ann Hamilton. His work is often driven by the physicality and performance that is part of the



glassblowing process, which he has previously described as an active dance with heat and molten glass. At the same time, Zimmerman is driven by the relationships that can be produced and accentuated between object, light, space, and audience. These connections shift as he shapes and molds the glass, producing a broad and diverse spectrum of effects that change the experience of the work, whether for an individual within the confines of their home or a wider group in a public space.

“Jeff Zimmerman is a visionary artist, whose work deftly and singularly captures and shifts the boundaries between fine art, design, and performance practices. We’ve known Jeff for many decades, and we continue to be surprised and mesmerized by the way he pushes the possibilities of glass, both enriching and dispelling preconceived notions about the medium,” said Zesty Meyers, Principal at R & Company. “Our forthcoming exhibition offers a broad view of Jeff’s recent work, as he continues to experiment with the experiences that can be produced by his process of making. There is a deep connection between Jeff, as artist and designer, and glass, as his chosen medium, that is distinctly felt in the works and that is genuinely unique.”

The exhibition also includes approximately 20 works that Zimmerman created in collaboration with Seattle-based glass artist James Mongrain, a longtime friend and colleague. Mongrain is known for his mastery of traditional forms and his use of caning techniques to create distinct patterns within his glass objects. The featured collaborative works, which include a wide selection of illuminated hanging and free-standing pendant sculptures and “crumpled” sculptural vessels, were produced in 2020 during a residency at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma. Zimmerman and Mongrain co-created the caning patterns, which range from delicate lines to bold geometric forms, and alternatively blew and shaped the glass. The works feature Zimmerman’s characteristic pressing technique, in which he pushes the molten glass to “crumple” or distort the initially pristine blown glass. The pressing creates a vast array of effects—both intentional and unintentional—changing the appearance of the patterns and the way that the light is filtered through the forms.



Jeff Zimmerman and James Mongrain, Illuminated sculptural pendant in hand-blown filigree glass, 2020. Photograph by Joe Kramm, Courtesy R & Company.

“Our upcoming exhibition highlights the incredible diversity and intricacy of Jeff Zimmerman’s work, as well as its tremendous beauty and fine detail. Taken together, it’s an impressive and compelling experience,” said Evan Snyderman, Principal at R & Company. “Equally, the presentation provides



visitors with an important sense of how each individual work could contribute, engage, and alter an interior space. It is within distinct spaces and in dialogue with other works of art and furnishings that Jeff’s work especially comes to life. He is particularly adept at establishing interesting connections in line, form, and texture, and that is why he is so incredibly successful, commercially and as a conceptual thinker.”

More About Jeff Zimmerman

Zimmerman took his first glass blowing class in 1988, while pursuing a degree in Anthropology in Santa Barbara, California. He then decided to pursue his BFA at the Appalachian Center for Craft in Tennessee and learned the classical Venetian approach to glass blowing. He worked at the Pilchuk School in Seattle, where he was exposed to master Italian glass technicians Lino Tagliapietro and Pino Signoretto. Zimmerman’s training also includes working as a master glass blower at C.I.R.V.A., a contemporary design and art center in Marseille, France, and with such esteemed artists as Robert Wilson, Gaetano Pesce, and Robert Morris.

In 1999, Zimmerman’s solo work began to attract attention from collectors, curators, and the public, when he presented a sprawling sculpture installation titled *Anthropology Museum of the Future* at the Robert Lehman Gallery in Brooklyn, New York. Since then, Zimmerman has exhibited at galleries and institutions internationally, including Sean Kelly Gallery, New York; Emmanuel Perrotin Gallery, Paris; the Brooklyn Museum of Art; and the American Crafts Museum. His work is in the permanent collections of the Corning Museum of Glass, New York, and the Boghossian Foundation, Belgium, as well as private collections worldwide.

Jeff Zimmerman: New Work will open concurrently with solo presentations of works by designers Katie Stout and Zanini de Zanine.

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