



Known for her dramatic cast-glass sculptures, British-born Galia Amsel is one of the leading contemporary glass artists presently working in New Zealand. A graduate of the Royal College of Art in London, Amsel relocated to New Zealand in 2003. She is recognised for her highly developed understanding of glass, with a visual language uniquely her own.

Amsel's sculpture revolves around the central paradox of glass as both a fluid and a solid medium. Through shape, translucence, texture and colour, she conveys her preoccupation with movement, tension and balance. Her resulting works manage both drama and subtlety, conveying an overwhelming sense of an artist deeply engaged with her medium.



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front cover: *Ohau*, 2012, cast bullseye glass, ground, hand smoothed and polished, 560 h x 820 w x 90mm d
above images: *Give*, 2012, cast gaffer glass, polished, 345 h x 345 w x 60mm d, and Galia Amsel in her studio

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SPiRiT GALIA AMSEL

20 June - 14 July 2012

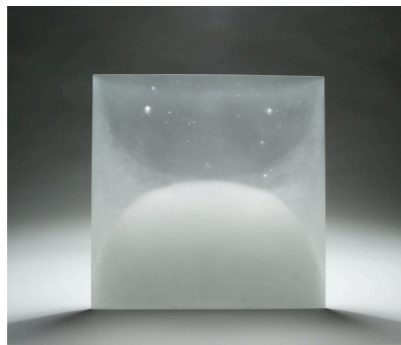
Central to Amsel's work is a sweeping, circular form, which often transitions from dark to light, or opaque to translucent. This circle represents a cycle - the passage of time captured through light, colour and pattern. In this exhibition, works such as *Rekindle* and *Happen* are meditations on this passing time, evoking the cyclical nature of a changing season or the rise and fall of the sun. Graduated opacity and colour are increasingly prominent in these works, bringing with them a poetic sense of emerging from darkness into the light. The landscape and environment have also become a recurring theme of Amsel's work; drawing the circle into a more elongated form and using colour and movement to create an atmospheric sense of time and place.

In parallel to these series', Amsel has also pursued an interest in structural, architectural forms. In contrast to her gentle, curving forms, the hard-edged geometry of these shapes address an alternative set of artistic concerns. Over the past year however, Amsel has been

developing a new series that unites these two elements of her practice.

The initial works in this series, which include *Embrace*, *Sense* and *Give*, reveal a new depth to Amsel's approach. These works use colour, light and layering in a more sensory way, evoking emotional rather than physical experience. More introspective than previous works, the success of these sculptures hinge on an ability to control the nuances of colour and depth. Technically and conceptually challenging, these works carry great promise for new exploration in Amsel's practice.

L-R: *Lake Ohau*, *Sense*, 2012, cast gaffer glass, hand smoothed finish, 345 h x 345 w x 60mm d; and *Ben Ohau Ranges*



Happen, 2012, cast bullseye glass, hand smoothed and polished, 550 h x 550 w x 85mm d