

Rock lobster

'Glass Claws' explores history, biology and beauty

Sitting atop a cantilevered set of plate-glass sheets, Richard Remsen's "*Glass Claws – Pulse Point*," currently on view at the Daniel Kany Gallery, is striking on many levels. First you see the colorful and perfectly rendered lobster claws. This haphazard pile of exquisite blown-glass shells appear as larger than life replicas of discarded lobster parts.

Remsen uses layers of glass to create a mottled appearance. Most of the claws contain the coral hue of cooked lobster shells, although a handful retain their natural greens, blues and browns. Beyond these individually stacked pieces, the sculpture offers two other visual layers to explore.

The four plate glass sheets are imbedded with x-ray images of actual lobster shells. These x-rays in turn become projections on the white base of the sculpture, giving the piece an element that mixes biology and technology.



"Glass Claws - Pulse Point," by Richard Remsen

On a metaphorical level, the sculpture can be seen as an interpretation of the ancient shell middens along the Maine coast. These shell heaps remain a fascinating treasure trove for archeologists and historians alike, as they offer a window into the lives of the people who lived along the coast thousands of years ago. In a similar way, "Glass Claws" provides an opportunity to view the refuse of our lobster feasts in a new, beautiful light.

— Avery Yale Kamila

"Glass Claws" has only been on public view once before, during a glass sculpture show at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland that opened last year. Gallery owner Kany calls the Remsen piece the "star" of the Farnsworth show and "one of the most compelling glass sculptures I have seen in the last 20 years," and he was determined to bring it to his Portland exhibition space. It is on view at the Daniel Kany Gallery at 89 Exchange St. in Portland through June 28, along with other works by Remsen. FMI call 774-2100 or visit www.kany.net