BIGGER THAN THE REAL THING -
new works by
Emma Woffenden and Christoph Zellweger
25 March to 1 May 2010

Emma Woffenden and Christoph Zellweger, both questioning and leading in their original craft disciplines of glass making and jewellery, now come together to create a discourse around bodily expression and contemporary or perhaps ancient neurosis. Friends and colleagues since meeting at the RCA in 1991 they are artists who strive with concept and production of often immaculate and original works.

Zellweger’s work uncovers societies pathologic relationship with their own and other people’s bodies. Considering life extension, penis extension, chemical control of body and mind, a general shift from the natural towards the artificial. “People use each other’s complexes for their own economic benefit. Large industries flourish on the suffering they nurture ….”

Irritated by such facts, he starts the intense production of exquisite powerful objects, loaded with emotion, sensuality but cut through with social comment.

Paralleling this and experiencing artificiality as a dead state Woffenden expresses despair at our alienation from primal intuition, strength and desire; searching for a reunion through art. She uses sexual conflict, isolation, aggression, release, as tools and subjects, resulting in difficult, chilling, but beautiful sculpture. For the artist and audience she hopes for little revelations and steps towards self-awareness.

“I want to find the ancient universal in our condition, I start with the personal, but often shared experience, working my way out”.