



Dunn and Brown Contemporary

Beverly Semmes' *Ophelia* dress is made of silk and rayon velvet.

Beverly Semmes at Dunn and Brown

The undulating swirls and elongated sleeves of Beverly Semmes' dresses at Dunn and Brown Contemporary read like something out of a Brothers Grimm fairy tale. Imagine the puff-shouldered dresses of Rapunzel and Cinderella shot through the prism of the world experienced on hallucinogens or inside Salvador Dali's mind on one of his wackier days.

Pink Arms (1995-97) is a large dress in maroon and green velvet and blue organza. Flowing from the bodice that hangs on the wall, the sleeves and skirt of the dress create circular swirls of iridescent organza in two shades of pale blue, one sky and the other closer to aqua, on the floor. The subtle gradation of color and rumples of fabric make for a painterly effect. Though made up of different remnants, the dress appears as one contiguous object.

Lining the center of the gallery are five tables, each holding two hand-blown crystal vessels. Their irregular shapes and precious material unite in defiance of the conventions of the craft of glassblowing. *Tooth and Wheel* (2006) sit side by side on a table, one tooth- and basket-shaped, the other sexually suggestive. The clean lines of the tables provide a provocative hygienic counterpoint to the flowing feminine dresses and crystalline form.

C.N.T.

"Beverly Semmes: *Pink Arms* and *Bumps*" is on exhibit through Feb. 23 at Dunn and Brown Contemporary, 5020 Tracy St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and by appointment. Free. 214-521-4322, www.dunnandbrown.com