

## ***The Venice Glass Week***

***The international festival dedicated to the art of glass, which from 2018 has been officially included amongst the “Major Events” of the Veneto Region, returns for a third edition: over 180 initiatives scheduled around Venice, Murano and Mestre***

***The opening of The Venice Glass Week HUB will be the inaugural event of the festival on Friday 6th September, and the grand finale will take place on Murano with the Murano Glass Weekend***

***This year also sees the introduction of the Bonhams Prize for The Venice Glass Week, a cash prize for the most interesting project in the festival, thanks to a new collaboration with Bonhams auction house***

VENICE, 6th June 2019 – In 2018 the **Veneto Region** officially designated ***The Venice Glass Week*** as one of the “**Major Events**” taking place within its borders, and this important status has been conferred on the festival once again in 2019. The **third edition** of the **international festival dedicated to the art of glass**, which was conceived to celebrate the artistic and economic resource for which the lagoon city is renowned worldwide, is an event that will again involve Venice, Murano and the surrounding mainland in a highly collaborative way.

More than 150 organisations and individuals will stage over 180 events around Venice, Murano and Mestre between 7th to 15th September 2019. The festival is promoted by the **Town Council of Venice** and conceived by three of Venice’s principal cultural institutions with considerable experience and expertise in the field of glass - **Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, Fondazione Giorgio Cini – LE STANZE DEL VETRO** and **Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti** – along with the most important trade association, the **Consorzio Promovetro Murano**, which also manages the *Vetro Artistico® Murano* trademark of the Veneto Region.

Unlike previous editions, this year applicants were asked to propose new projects specifically conceived for *The Venice Glass Week*. Hundreds of applications were received and evaluated by the **Curatorial Committee**, which is headed by the historian of Venetian glass **Rosa Barovier Mentasti** and includes critics and curators **Isabelle Reiher** and **Jean Blanchaert**, journalist and director of the German magazine *Neues Glas* **Uta Klotz**, and architect **Marco Zito**. The high volume of applications, which were submitted by foundations, art galleries, museums, cultural institutions, universities, higher education institutes as well as glassworks, furnaces, companies, artists and private Italian and foreign collectors, confirms the dynamism and vitality of Venice’s cultural scene, and provides a strong indication of the local and international interest in the field of glass.

This year *The Venice Glass Week*’s Organising Committee has established a new Prize entitled ***Bonhams Prize for The Venice Glass Week***, which is intended to reward the commitment of the

festival's participants and to stimulate an even more significant engagement in future editions. It is hoped that the Prize will set in motion a cycle where the festival - as happened similarly with the Venice Art Biennale in the first half of the twentieth century - will become an important stage upon which those operating in the artistic and productive world of glass will annually present new creations to the public. The Prize is sponsored by the **Modern Decorative Art and Design Department (New York) of Bonhams, an international auction house founded in 1793**, which is one of the largest and most important auction houses in the world specialising in fine art, ancient art, cars and jewellery. The winner will be chosen at the discretion of the Prize Jury from amongst all the projects presented and selected to participate in the third edition of *The Venice Glass Week*, and will receive **a cash prize of €1,000.00 during an official Prize-giving Ceremony on Wednesday 11th September 2019 at Palazzo Franchetti**. The Jury may decide to give a special mention to a maximum of two other original projects, at their discretion.

The festival programme will include **a broad spectrum of initiatives** spread across **Mestre, Venice and Murano**. Events – most of which will offer free admission – will include **exhibitions, guided tours, conferences, seminars, award ceremonies, film screenings, educational activities, a non-competitive race around Murano, parties, receptions and open furnaces**. All initiatives will be dedicated to artistic glass, and there will be events for audiences of all ages.

In conjunction with the opening weekend of the festival, the first edition of **NOMAD Venice** - the travelling showcase for collectable design - will be held at Palazzo Soranzo Van Axel from **5th to 8th September**. NOMAD Venice is an official partner of *The Venice Glass Week*.

Information about all events in the festival programme will be available in due course on the **website [www.theveniceglassweek.com](http://www.theveniceglassweek.com)**, created by the company **D'Uva di Firenze**, technical sponsor of the festival, and on *The Venice Glass Week's* **social media profiles** (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

## EVENTS OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The "Glass Week" will begin on the evening of **Friday 6th September 2019** in Campo Santo Stefano in Venice, with the inauguration of the second edition of ***The Venice Glass Week HUB***. Following the great success of the last edition, this year the festival's Organising Committee has decided to give even more space to the HUB, which will be the heart of the festival and which will host a number of installations in the two venues of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti at **Palazzo Loredan and Palazzo Franchetti**. The HUB will be curated by **Rosa Barovier Mentasti** and will be realized in collaboration with the company **Green Spin** and students from the Curatorial Practice course of **IED Venezia**, one of the official partners of the festival.

*The Venice Glass Week* will then come alive during the weekend: on **Sunday 8th September** there will be the inauguration of the exhibition ***Thomas Stearns at Venini***, curated by Marino Barovier at **LE STANZE DEL VETRO**, dedicated to the American artist who between 1960 and 1962 worked as a guest designer with the Venini glassworks. After the initial period during which Stearns familiarised himself with local techniques, he started to create works of an extremely

original character and unusual for Murano. Various series of glass pieces came into being, designed as an artistic impression of a sculptural kind, characterised by asymmetric and organic shapes and unusual glass techniques, rooted in the material of glass itself and with singular colour schemes. Also on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, in the garden in front of the exhibition venue, visitors will be able to admire the monumental glass sculpture by the American artist Pae White, *Qwalala*, a 75-meter long curved wall, made with thousands of coloured glass bricks, cast by hand. On the occasion of *The Venice Glass Week*, the **Fondazione Giorgio Cini** will also propose **Open Glass Archives**, offering the possibility to visit the treasures of its **Centro Studi del Vetro** by appointment. This Archive includes over 100,000 documentary units (drawings, projects, correspondence, production catalogues, photographs and thousands of publications that relate the history and production of the companies that represent the art of Murano glass from the 19th century to the present day) and is one of the most important archives pertaining to Venetian glass in the world.

The **Murano Glass Museum**, meanwhile, will pay tribute to the vast and splendid production of **Tapio Wirkkala (1915-1985)**, a famous designer, graphic designer and sculptor of wood who was also important in the field of glass. The exhibition will present more than 100 works which reveal two souls of the artist: one linked to the transparency of glass and to its materiality which is deeply connected with the nature of Finland, and the other which is colourful, connected with the artistic-executive virtuosity of Murano. Also at the Murano Glass Museum it will be possible to visit **Matthias Schaller. Leiermann**, a series of photographic works linked to the composition of Franz Schubert's "Der Leiermann", exploring the themes of the mirror and of Venice, and encouraging the visitor to dwell on how the mirrors of the past reflect present-day Venice.

The initiatives presented by the Organising Committee of *The Venice Glass Week* also include the eighth edition of the **Venetian Glass Study Days**, one of the most important annual meetings for glass scholars at an international level, organised by the **Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti**. During the Study Days experts and enthusiasts from all over the world – including museum curators, scholars, collectors, restorers and glass artists - will discuss a particular and ancient glass processing technique: **Enamelled Glass Of The Renaissance**. On 11th September, in conjunction with the awarding of the *Bonhams Prize for The Venice Glass Week*, there will also be the **award ceremony** for the **Glass in Venice Prize** – a project born from a collaboration between the Istituto Veneto and the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, which will see an exhibition of works by the winners displayed at Palazzo Loredan until October 14th.

From **7th to 15th September**, the **Consorzio Promovetro** will organise an exhibition on Murano titled **Murano Glass Street Art**, an exhibition of murals and works in glass that will represent a unique and unprecedented encounter between street artists and glass masters, featuring performances and live demonstrations. The Consorzio will also organise a recreational educational activity titled **In search of the lost murrina**, an itinerary around Murano involving the schools of the island and the historic centre, organized by Artsystem and realised in collaboration with the Murano Glass Museum and Scuola del Vetro Abate Zanetti. Finally, the results of the research undertaken by Professor Michele Tamma of the Department of Management of Ca' Foscari University of Venice will be presented, entailing a **survey about the perception of Murano glass** on the part of tourists who participated in the 2018 edition of *The Venice Glass Week*, with a

particular focus on the perception that foreign tourists have of this precious material and of the *Vetro Artistico® Murano* trademark.

The **Town Council of Venice** is also actively furthering the widespread appreciation of artistic glass and encouraging the involvement of the area's resident population, economic operators and visitors, by organising events in Murano as well as in Mestre and on the Venetian mainland. From **13th September** Palazzo Da Mula on Murano will host a group exhibition titled ***Vetro comune denominatore***, organised in collaboration with the Fotoclub "El grandangolo" of Murano and the associations "Obiettivo immagine" of Burano and "Marco Polo" of Venice. For the exhibition, the three photographic circles will present images that tell stories of the island of Murano and its glass industry. In Mestre, meanwhile, in collaboration with the **Museo Storico del Bottone "Sandro Partesotti" di Padova**, another exhibition will explore an original theme linked to the world of fashion and costume - that of the **glass button**. The exhibition will focus on a collection of glass buttons made over the years on Murano, following the instructions of fashion houses and creative glass masters, accompanied by antique garments from the collections of Venice's Museum of Costume and Fashion. Also in Mestre, on the occasion of *The Venice Glass Week*, from 6th to 15th September many **shop windows in the town centre will host a selection of glass works** from the Murano Glass Museum and various private collections.

## MURANO GLASS WEEKEND

Grand finale of the third edition of *The Venice Glass Week*: from **13th – 15th September** the island of **Murano** will be the platform for the ***Murano Glass Weekend*** which will host a rich programme of events spread throughout the island: from open furnaces to exhibitions, guided tours, seminars, regattas, musical performances and educational activities for adults and children. One such event will be the 2019 edition of ***Bocca del Fuoco***, a **non-competitive night-time running race** organized by the **ASD Venezia Runners Atletica Murano**, where on **Saturday 14th September** participants will run along the streets and bridges of Murano, following a path lit by candles and passing through a number of active glass furnaces.

## THE FESTIVAL IMAGE

All events in *The Venice Glass Week* programme will be distinguished by a unique **logo** conceived in 2016 by Anna Scaini, a second year student in the graphic design course at IED Venezia. The logo has been creatively enhanced for the 2019 edition by **Cristina Morandin**, with a design that incorporates bands that recall the "incalmo" production technique, and a three-dimensional effect with a kinetic thrust.

### For further information:

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