



Venice, 10th -17th September 2017

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

***Over 140 events planned, including exhibitions, conferences, seminars, screenings, educational activities, themed evenings and open furnaces; all the details will be available on the website [theveniceglassweek.com](http://theveniceglassweek.com)***

*The Town Council of Venice, Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, Fondazione Giorgio Cini/LE STANZE DEL VETRO, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and Consorzio Promovetro Murano have unveiled the contents of the first international festival dedicated to the art of glass, which from 10th to 17th September 2017 will involve all of the major institutions in Venice with the aim of revitalizing and sustaining one of the most important artistic and creative activities in the area.*

VENICE, 27th June 2017 – From 10th to 17th September 2017 more than 100 different venues will host a total of over 140 events as part of the first edition of **The Venice Glass Week** - an international festival dedicated to the art of glass, with a particular focus on that of Murano, the artistic and creative resource for which the Lagoon City is renowned around the world.

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, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti** – and the guardians of original Murano artistic glass production, the **Consorzio Promovetro Murano**, which also manages the *Vetro Artistico® Murano* trademark of the Veneto Region.

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The response to the initiative has been unanimously positive. Hundreds of applications were received by 31st March 2017, and a careful selection was made by the committee, from a wide variety of applicants including foundations, art galleries, museums, cultural institutions, universities, higher education institutes, furnaces, glass companies, artists and private collectors both from Italy and abroad; a sure sign of the dynamism and vitality of Venice's artistic and cultural scene, and a strong indication of the international interest in the field of glass.

*"Glass art is one of the areas of excellence for which Venice is so famous world over" - stated **Tourism Council Member of Comune di Venezia, Paola Mar** - "Our goal is to bring Murano glass back to the forefront of the world's attention and to consolidate in Venice, with the mainland and its islands, a long-term event for the celebration of this material."*

*"Venetian glass and the furnaces of Murano boast over a thousand years of history, during which they have experienced long periods of international success and economic prosperity, alternating with moments of crisis," said the festival's **Organizing Committee**. "The current crisis of the glass industry in Venice is due to the confluence of various negative factors, independent of the responsibility of those who work in the sector, the creativity of designers and artists and the exceptional skills of glass masters, which continue to constitute extraordinary richness in Italy and throughout the world. To support and sustain the tradition of glass-making in Venice - which is unique in terms of quality and longevity - some of the leading Venetian institutions, such as the festival's Organizing Committee (who in recent years have independently set up many high-quality initiatives in the field of artistic glass), have sought to put together a week full of events that will re-engage interest in the topic at a local and international level, and will once again make Venice the world centre for glass art. "*

The Venice Glass Week programme will be made up of **various types of events** sharing the common theme of glass art, most of which will be free of charge, including **exhibitions, conferences, seminars, award ceremonies, film screenings, educational activities, sporting activities, parties, themed evenings and open furnaces**, and will be open to all ages.

The "Glass Week" will begin on 10th September with the opening of the exhibition **Vittorio Zecchin: Transparent Glass for Cappellin and Venini**, curated by Marino Barovier for LE STANZE DEL VETRO; the exhibition will focus on the transparent glass works designed by Vittorio Zecchin between 1921 and 1926. Also on San Giorgio, in the garden opposite the Zecchin exhibition venue,

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visitors will be able to admire the monumental glass sculpture by American artist Pae White, which will be completed in August: **Qwalala**, a 75 metre curved wall made up of thousands of coloured, hand-cast bricks. On the occasion of The Venice Glass Week, the **Glass Study Centre** will offer the opportunity, during the Glass Week, to visit the Glass Archives and the specialized library, organizing guided tours of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini.

Among the initiatives orchestrated by the Organizing Committee of The Venice Glass Week, will be the exhibitions at the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia: **Gaetano Pesce. Five glassmaking techniques** curated by Gabriella Belli, Françoise Guichon and Chiara Squarcina, and **Dino Martens. Painter and Designer** curated by Chiara Squarcina, both at the Museo del Vetro in Murano. In the gardens of the Museum, a series of events will take place during the week, including a book presentation by Livio Seguso, *A Life for Art*, as well as other events organized by the association InMurano. In addition, the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia will host the works of international artists in a number of its venues during The Venice Glass Week, including: **Federica Marangoni** at Museo del Vetro; **Michael Zyw** and **Sandra Fuchs** at the Casa di Carlo Goldoni; **Tristano di Robilant** and **Domitilla Harding** at the Museo di Palazzo Mocenigo and **Maria Grazia Rosin** at Ca' Pesaro – International Gallery of Modern Art.

The Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti will organize the **Study Days on Venetian Glass 2017**, on the theme of **Venetian Filigree Glass** throughout the centuries. Now in its **sixth edition**, this event was established to offer students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of and engagement with glass; it is one of the most important events of its kind in the world. The 2017 edition will feature 30 glass experts from all over Europe and the United States, including museum curators, scholars, collectors, restorers and glass artists. During The Venice Glass Week the institute will also host an exhibition of works by the 2017 winners of the **Glass in Venice** and **Riedel Awards**, as well their respective **award ceremonies**.

From 30th August - 13th September, thanks to a collaboration between the Consorzio Promovetro Murano and La Fenice Theatre, Le Sale Apollinee will host "**Gold**" - an important Murano glass installation by companies associated with *Vetro Artistico® Murano*. The main feature of the installation will be gold - an element which often characterizes Murano production, synonymous with wealth and prosperity. In addition, Consorzio Promovetro will offer guided tours to discover the world of Murano glass. The **Murano Glass Experience** tours will enable visitors to observe glass masters at work in some furnaces and workshops of Murano that are otherwise closed to the public.

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Finally, the **Comune di Venezia (Town Council)** is organizing a photographic exhibition at Palazzo da Mula, featuring works by **Luigi Ferrigno**. Both a chemist in a Murano furnace and a photographer, Ferrigno's photographs taken between 1957 and 1962, depict the living and working conditions of the workers; a series of black and white images with an intense and dramatic tone.

However, the events arranged by the Organizing Committee are just a few of the many initiatives that will give life to the first edition of The Venice Glass Week. As well as the many events directly linked to glass, there will be music-related initiatives, such as **Note riflesse at Palazzetto Bru Zane** - a recital of arias and melodies on the theme of glass by Gounod, Lalo, Massenet, Pierné e Widor. The festival will also include poetry events, such as the evening organized by the Casa delle Parole at the Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi, which will feature **readings dedicated to glass**. There will also be **film screenings**, such as the presentation of *Pezzi Sparsi* - a documentary about the glass artist Toni Zuccheri, directed by Marta Pasqualini, which has never been shown in Venice.

Furthermore, there will be **children's activities**, organized by **Artsystem** and **Barchetta blu**; aperitivi and themed dinners; guided tours and also a 5km candlelit race, **FireMouth 2017**, organised by **ASD Venezia Runners Atletica Murano**, which will lead participants at night through six active glass furnaces.

All the events will soon be available on the official site [www.theveniceglassweek.com](http://www.theveniceglassweek.com), which will include a detailed events calendar, and on the festival's **social media profiles** on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Each event in The Venice Glass Week will feature a **logo** designed by **Anna Scaini**, who was selected in 2016 from proposals submitted by **second-year students of the graphic design course at IED Venezia** - visual communications partner for the event. The logo is in "Venetian Red", a colour dating back to ancient times -- which symbolizes life and vitality as well as the will to do and excel -- and which resembles the outline of a vase, with two wings, like those of the Lion of St Mark.

The programme of *The Venice Glass Week* will also be available on a mobile **App**, thanks to a collaboration with **H-Farm**.

*The Venice Glass Week* is sponsored by the **Regione del Veneto, Comune di Venezia – Città in Festa** and the **Camera di Commercio Venezia Rovigo Delta Lagunare**.

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Thanks are also due to **AVA - Associazione Veneziana Albergatori**, for the involvement of their structures.

**For further information:**

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**Press office and communication:**



**CASADOROFUNGHER**  
COMUNICAZIONE

**Elena Casadoro**

m +39 334 8602488

[elena@casadorofungher.com](mailto:elena@casadorofungher.com)

**Francesca Fungher**

m +39 349 3411211

[francesca@casadorofungher.com](mailto:francesca@casadorofungher.com)

[www.casadorofungher.com](http://www.casadorofungher.com)

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