

The Venice Glass Week presents its fifth edition - #VivaVetro! - taking place around Venice, Murano and Mestre from 4th to 12th September 2021

The international festival dedicated to the art of glass aims to support the Murano glass sector - which is recovering and restarting with optimism - whilst highlighting the timeless energy of glass, and addressing younger audiences in particular

The programme will feature a variety of new highlights including the first edition of the Fondazione di Venezia Prize for the best project in the festival, and the awarding of the prestigious Glass in Venice Prize by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia to artists Federica Marangoni and Mauro Bonaventura

VENICE, 16th July 2021 - **The Venice Glass Week**, the international festival founded in 2017 to celebrate, support and promote the art of glassmaking - the artistic and economic activity for which Venice has been known around the world for over a thousand years - is now in its **fifth edition**, and will be held in Venice, Murano and Mestre from **4th to 12th September 2021**. This year's event has a new "title-hashtag" **#VivaVetro!** – a cheer of enthusiasm - also expressed visually via the spectrum of colours in the new graphic image - which is designed to convey the **timeless energy** of the material of glass, and aims to give support and renewed vigour to the sector of Murano glass production which, after months of closure, is recovering and restarting with optimism. This support also translates into the awarding of **three prizes**: the ninth edition of the *Glass in Venice Prize*, the second edition of the *Autonoma Residency Prize* and the first edition of the *Fondazione di Venezia Prize for The Venice Glass Week*. The festival also continues to cater for those unable to reach Venice in person, thanks to the digital programme which includes the second edition of *Conversations on Glass by Apice*.

Once again, this year *The Venice Glass Week* - an initiative promoted by the **Comune di Venezia** and conceived by the **Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia**, **Fondazione Giorgio Cini-LE STANZE DEL VETRO**, **Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti** and by the most important organization associated with the glass sector, **Consorzio Promovetro Murano**, which manages the trademark of the Veneto Region Vetro Artistico® Murano - is part of the programme of "Great Events" supported by the **Regione del Veneto**.

#VIVAVETRO! A FESTIVAL FOR NEW GENERATIONS

The Venice Glass Week 2021 is paying particular attention to new generations: children and teenagers - Italians and foreigners, with their families and their classes - are the primary targets of exhibitions and events that have been designed with them in mind, with the aim of drawing them closer to the multi-faceted world of artistic glass, stimulating their curiosity and engaging their interest.



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Chief amongst these are the exhibitions *The Glass Ark. Animals in the Pierre Rosenberg Collection* at LE STANZE DEL VETRO on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, and the new show *Murano Glass Toys* organised by the Consorzio Promovetro Murano at the Museo del Vetro. The festival isn't just tailored for children alone: **young people in general** will also receive special attention: after the success of 2020, **The Venice Glass Week HUB under 35** - an exhibition space expressly dedicated to the glass artworks of Italian and foreign artists and designers under 35 - will return, underlining how the festival aims to provide a platform and showcase for young talents from all over the world, also from the point of view of glass production.

All of these **special initiatives aimed at visitors** who will come to Venice in September - **The Venice Glass Week Tours by Nexa** and the **Kids' Programme by Artsystem**, created in collaboration with the festival's partners Nexa Event & Travel designers and Artsystem - have been conceived with a view to facilitating a dialogue with families of adults and children, and are designed both to entertain and educate, demonstrating the inclusive spirit of *The Venice Glass Week*.

THE FESTIVAL IN THE CITY

Hundreds of applications were received by the Festival Coordinator of *The Venice Glass Week* and selected by the **Curatorial Committee**, chaired by the Venetian glass historian Rosa Barovier Mentasti and composed of a team of experts in the glass sector at an international level, which this year includes new members **Rainald Franz**, Head of the Glass and Ceramics Collection at MAK-Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art, and **Susanne Jøker Johnsen**, Head of Exhibitions at The Royal Danish Academy - Architecture, Design, Conservation and Director of European Glass and Ceramic Context on the island of Bornholm in Denmark. They are joined by curator and critic Jean Blanchaert, together with artist and creative director Marcantonio Brandolini d'Adda, both of whom have served on the Committee before.

The applications, which were submitted by foundations, art galleries, museums, cultural institutions, universities, higher education institutes, glass companies, furnaces, companies, artists, designers and private Italian and foreign collectors, confirm the vitality of Venice's artistic, cultural and glass production scene, and are a strong indication of the ever-growing international interest in the field of glass, despite the difficulties linked to the pandemic that slowed the world in 2020.

The city-wide programme of *The Venice Glass Week*, as is tradition, will consist of a **rich and diverse spread of initiatives** dispersed across the territory, involving Mestre as well as Venice and Murano. The initiatives - which are mostly free of charge - will all have artistic glass at their core, and will appeal to audiences of all ages, with particular attention to young people and their families. The list of participants is presented here: the complete programme of the fifth edition of *The Venice Glass Week* will be the subject of a second Press Conference, scheduled for early September 2021.

Following the appreciation of previous editions, one of the key centres of the festival will be **The**



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Venice Glass Week HUB in Campo Santo Stefano, at the **Palazzo Loredan** headquarters of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, which once again will host a selection of works by around twenty Italian and international artists and designers, as well as works and projects by fifteen young artists and designers aged under 35 in the **HUB Under35**, a dedicated space on the ground floor of the building.

Great attention will be given this year to **the art of glass beads**, which was recently awarded Intangible Cultural Heritage status by UNESCO, with a series of initiatives organized in Mestre and Venice by **the Comune di Venezia** together with the **Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia**: **Perle in Vetrina** is the diffused exhibition in shop windows which will display original glass necklaces created by important contemporary masters and designers. From 6th September to 6th October in Forte Marghera visitors will be able to admire the photographic exhibition **Perle 1.0 - Perlere and Impiraresse. Immagini tra ieri e oggi per raccontare un'arte**, which recounts the craft of glass beads and *impiraresse* from the twentieth century to today. Adults and children will also be able to participate in bead workshops taking place in Mestre, Forte Marghera and on the Lido. In Venice, Palazzo Mocenigo will host the beaded flowers of Benedetta Gaggia, and the conference dedicated to the topic of **The history of glass beads**.

The initiatives organised by *The Venice Glass Week* Organising Committee include the aforementioned exhibition **The Glass Ark. Animals in the Pierre Rosenberg Collection**, curated by Giordana Naccari and Cristina Beltrami, whose (free) opening to the public at **LE STANZE DEL VETRO**, on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, has been extended until 1st November 2021, specifically in order to form part of the festival with which it shares its spirit and target audience. The exhibition traces - in an original and engaging way, designed especially for young people - the history of Murano glass in the twentieth century through a highly unusual angle: **the glass animal**. The 750+ pieces on display - including elephants, dogs, hippos, cats, giraffes, mammoths, bears, parrots, fish, turtles, foxes, and even tiny insects made in full-scale lampwork by Bruno Amadi - belong to the personal collection which Pierre Rosenberg, previously Director of the Louvre Museum in Paris, put together over thirty years of regular time spent in Venice.

From 4th September to 3rd October the new **Murano Glass Toys** exhibition will be open to the public at the **Museo del Vetro** on Murano, curated by architect Matteo Silverio and organized by the **Consorzio Promovetro Murano** with the support of the **Regione del Veneto** and the **Camera di Commercio di Venezia Rovigo**. *Murano Glass Toys*, an initiative conceived with the aim of promoting the regional brand **Vetro Artistico® Murano**, is an ambitious project, characterized by an innovative setting: no longer a glass exhibition to "look at but not touch", but a real interactive and multimedia installation, a room where the visitor can play and be amazed. The project involves fourteen Murano glass masters from as many concessionary companies of the *Vetro Artistico® Murano* brand who have put themselves to the test for the occasion, addressing a theme far from their usual production. In *Murano Glass Toys*, glass lives, moves and interacts with the viewer: in this magical atmosphere, visitors can experience or relive the emotions related to their childhood and youth.

As usual, there will be events designed for specialists in the sector: the **Istituto Veneto di**

Scienze, Lettere ed Arti presents the ninth edition of the **Study Days on Venetian Glass**, one of the most important annual events for international glass scholars, from 8th to 10th September 2021 at Palazzo Franchetti. The event, reserved for people who have enrolled on the course, will involve **thirty glass experts** from all over Europe and the United States, including museum conservators, scholars, collectors, restorers, glass artists. The three-day programme includes seminars, lectures, visits and practical demonstrations of ancient techniques, with documents and sessions with scholars.

THE PRIZES

9th September 2021, in the heart of the glass week, will be a special day because it will see the awarding ceremony of **three important prizes** in the context of the fifth edition of the festival.

Palazzo Franchetti will host the award ceremony for the winners of the ninth edition of the prestigious **Glass in Venice Prize**, organized by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia: the recognition is given to artists and glass masters who have particularly distinguished themselves with their work, working in the great Murano tradition, or, elsewhere in the world, with different schools and techniques. This year's winners are the artists **Federica Marangoni**, with the awarding of the Lifetime Achievement Award, and **Mauro Bonaventura**. From 4th to 12th September works by the winners will be exhibited in the atmospheric setting of the atrium of Palazzo Loredan, amongst the marble effigies of the *Panteon Veneto* which brings together the busts of illustrious figures who were either born or lived in Venice.

New for 2021 is the institution of the first **Fondazione di Venezia Prize for The Venice Glass Week**, which will be awarded to the best project in the festival. All participants in *The Venice Glass Week 2021* will automatically be considered as candidates for the prize, which will be awarded thanks to the support of the Fondazione di Venezia. The winner will receive a cash prize of € 1,000.00 and, at the discretion of the Jury - composed of the curator Jean Blanchaert, the Chancellor of the Istituto Veneto Giovanna Palandri and the General Councillor of the Fondazione di Venezia Paola Marini – a special mention may be given to a maximum of two other original projects.

Meanwhile, the Italian and international artists and designers under the age of 35 exhibiting in the HUB under35 will be considered as candidates for the second edition of the **Autonoma Residency Prize**, promoted by LagunaB through the Autonoma project, in association with the renowned American Pilchuck Glass School: a prize which will enable the winner to undertake a two-month residency at the Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle (USA) in 2022.



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THE DIGITAL PROGRAMME: CONVERSATIONS ON GLASS AND THE SPECIAL PROJECTS THE VENICE GLASS WEEK TOURS AND KIDS' PROGRAMME

Once again this year, *The Venice Glass Week* offers an original programme of digital events produced by the festival, including the prestigious ***Conversations on Glass by Apice***, the series of discussions in English with international figures from the world of glass, specially designed to involve the international public. These "conversations", created in collaboration with Apice, a renowned transport company for works of art, will be broadcast live on the YouTube channel of *The Venice Glass Week* from 4th to 12th September. This year, moreover, **two of the seven appointments** will be held "in-person" at Palazzo Franchetti, headquarters of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti. The conversations, involving high-level national and international speakers, are intended to be a platform for reflections on the world of glass, in preparation for 2022, which will be the ***United Nations International Year of Glass***.

The Venice Glass Week Tours by Nexa – the festival's official guided tours - are also back, organized in collaboration with Nexa, a Venice-based event organisation agency specialising in high-level international projects. The main focus of these experiences is the opportunity to witness the magic of artistic glass production in person, in a series of fascinating locations. The tours, which for the first time will take place in part also online, will be themed and will involve furnaces, ateliers and companies in Venice and Murano selected by Nexa to enable visitors to appreciate the timeless value of an art which is in constant evolution, through the hands of masters and artists at work. The tours, both in terms of logistics and content, will be entrusted to professional guides, specially trained by Nexa regarding the production and history of glass, both in Murano and internationally.

This year *The Venice Glass Week* will offer more special events dedicated to children and families than ever before, under the umbrella of the ***Kids' Program by Artsystem***, created in collaboration with the festival's Venice-based partner Artsystem, which has always been committed to organising educational activities for young and old. From Saturday 4th to Sunday 12th September 2021, the public will be able to participate in the game-activity ***TROVAVETRO***. ***On the street of beads!***, while from Monday 6th to Friday 10th September there will be another activity for children and teenagers: ***Walking on the glass wire***.

Full information about all of the initiatives will soon be available on the website **www.theveniceglassweek.com**, created by the company **D'Uva di Firenze**, technical sponsor of the festival, and on the event's **social media profiles** (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube).



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