

The Venice Glass Week celebrates #TheArtofFire Seventh edition to include many highlights including new Guided Tours, Prizes, Kids Programme and the return of The Floating Furnace

The international glass festival, taking place from 9th to 17th September around Venice, Murano and Mestre, will see the return of The Floating Furnace: a programme of free glassmaking demonstrations on the Grand Canal, thanks to a new collaboration with Select

Other new aspects include free daily guided tours of the exhibition HUBS at Palazzo Loredan, organised by Nexa, and the new Kid's Programme in collaboration with MUVE Education

VENICE, 6th July 2023 - From **9th to 17th September 2023, Venice, Murano and Mestre** will welcome back **The Venice Glass Week**: the international festival founded in 2017 to celebrate, support and promote the art of glassmaking, for which the Lagoon City has been renowned around the world for over 1000 years. Now in its **seventh edition**, this year's festival will have the "title-hashtag" **#TheArtofFire**: a reference to the fires that burn daily in the furnaces of Murano, and the fundamental element involved in the production of artistic glass.

The Venice Glass Week is promoted by Comune di Venezia, Fondazione Musei Civici, Fondazione Giorgio Cini – LE STANZE DEL VETRO, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti e Consorzio Promovetro Murano, and is once again designated by the Regione del Veneto as one of the official "Major Events" of the territory in 2023.

The 2023 edition of the festival is also supported by numerous partners who believe in the project, including **Select, Pentagram Stiftung, Camera di Commercio di Venezia Rovigo con Sistema Camerale Veneto and VenicePromex, Fondazione di Venezia, Vela, Intesa Sanpaolo, Nexa - Event & Travel Designers, Studio Legale Albertini and Carpisa.**

#TheArtofFire will feature a considerable number of new highlights, including the return of **The Floating Furnace**, which was previously seen during the 2020 festival. Thanks to the commitment of the **Consorzio Promovetro Murano** and the support and collaboration of **Select**, glass blowers from Murano will delight audiences with a programme of free, live glassmaking demonstrations on board a barge on the Grand Canal. Other highlights will include **The Venice Glass Week HUB Tours**: free daily guided tours of the two exhibition HUBs at Palazzo Loredan, which will display a series of installations by around 40 international and Italian glass artists, including a dedicated section

dedicated to exhibitors under the age of 35. The series of tours is curated and sponsored by **Nexa - Event & Travel Designers**, a specialist Venice-based events company which also organises the festival's official programme of guided tours around selected furnaces and ateliers in Venice and Murano: *The Venice Glass Week Tours* by Nexa.

The **Kid's Programme** returns in a new guise in 2023, thanks to a collaboration with **MUVE Education**, which will curate the festival's official programme of activities for children and families.

This year the festival received more **Applications** from aspiring participants than ever before, with **over 250 proposals** submitted by candidates from **34 countries** (including Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Great Britain, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Netherlands, Palestine, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Hungary and USA). All of the Applications were subject to evaluation and selection by the **Curatorial Committee**, which is chaired by Venetian glass historian **Rosa Barovier Mentasti** and made up of a team of international experts in the field of glass including **Rainald Franz**, Head of the Glass and Ceramics Collection at the MAK-Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art of Vienna, **Susanne Jøker Johnsen**, Head of Exhibitions at the Royal Danish Academy - Architecture, Design, Conservation in Copenhagen and Director of the European Glass and Ceramic Context in Bornholm in Denmark, **Jean Blanchaert**, gallerist and curator of Homo Faber Event 2022 and **Alma Zevi**, curator and Senior director of PATERSON ZEVI.

The wealth of proposals - submitted by a broad spectrum of applicants including foundations, art galleries, museums, cultural bodies, universities, glassworks, furnaces, companies and artists from Italy and abroad - is a sure sign of the dynamism and vitality of Venice's artistic and cultural scene, as well as a highly encouraging indication of the increasingly powerful appeal of *The Venice Glass Week* as a platform for showcasing and celebrating the art of glass. This year, the **selection process** was more rigorous than ever, with a view to ensuring that the festival's programme offers events and initiatives of the highest quality.

As always, *The Venice Glass Week* programme will feature an expansive range of activities across Venice, Murano and Mestre. Designed for audiences of all ages, most of the initiatives will be free of charge. At the heart of all of the events is **artistic glass**, as underlined by the title-hashtag of this year's edition **#TheArtOfFire**, which refers to the exceptional skills, creativity and variety of artists and craftsmen from all over the world, and in particular in Murano, who work with this unique material.

The complete list of participants and events in the seventh edition of *The Venice Glass Week* will be announced at a Press Conference scheduled to take place in early September.

THE FLOATING FURNACE AND THE VENICE GLASS WEEK TOURS

Among the most important highlights of the seventh edition of the festival will be the hotly anticipated return of **The Floating Furnace**: a programme of live glassmaking demonstrations promoted and organised by **Consorzio Promovetro Murano**. The initiative is realised thanks to the support of **Select** - the aperitif which was born in Venice in 1920, ideal for making an authentic Venetian spritz -

which has always aimed to enhance local life and culture. In May 2023, Select inaugurated **Ca' Select** in Venice. Situated in the Cannaregio district in a restored building that previously housed an artisanal metalworking workshop, Ca' Select is an experiential venue that encompasses tradition and innovation, offered to the city of Venice for cultural activities and events.

The Floating Furnace will feature a barge decked out with an active glass furnace, and will host a series of live demonstrations by a number of different glass masters and students. As such, it will transport the art of glassblowing out of Murano's furnaces and into the heart of Venice, raising public awareness of the fragility of the island's glass industry whilst also highlighting its unique, spectacular qualities as an art form which must be preserved at all costs for future generations. The boat will be moored at a fixed spot on the Grand Canal, allowing audiences on land to watch demonstrations of different techniques by a number of glass masters, together with **students from the Scuola del Vetro Abate Zanetti di Murano**. The demonstrations will be accompanied by **explanations and commentary from experts in both Italian and English**, who will welcome and respond to questions from the public.

The festival will also offer an official programme of guided visits to a selection of furnaces and ateliers: **The Venice Glass Week Tours by Nexa**, presented in collaboration with Nexa - Event & Travel Designers, a Venice-based company specialising in the organisation of high-level events and international projects. The Tours, which are organised and curated directly by Nexa, are conducted by professional guides who are trained in the history and production of glass. Each one is designed to enable small groups of visitors to experience the magical world of glassmaking first-hand. In addition, for the first time the festival programme will also feature **The Venice Glass Week HUB Tours by Nexa**: daily guided visits, commencing at set times, of *The Venice Glass Week HUB* and *The Venice Glass Week HUB Under 35* at Palazzo Loredan in Campo Santo Stefano.

Once again this year, one of the main centres of the festival will be **The Venice Glass Week HUB** and **The Venice Glass Week HUB Under35**, both hosted at Palazzo Loredan, home of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti in Campo Santo Stefano. *The Venice Glass Week HUB*, situated in the magnificent rooms on the first floor, will feature a series of installations by Italian and international glass artists aged 36 and over. *The Venice Glass Week HUB Under35*, featuring installations by artists aged 18-35, will be hosted in the ground floor galleries of the palace. *The Venice Glass Week HUB Under35* is organised as part of the Regione del Veneto's 2023 programme of interventions for economic promotion and internationalization, in collaboration with **Camera di Commercio Venezia Rovigo, Sistema Camerale Veneto** and **Venicepromex**.

THE PROJECTS ORGANISED BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The **Organising Committee of The Venice Glass Week** are presenting **many initiatives** this year. **Consorzio Promovetro Murano** will present **Murano: Upcycling Glass**, an exhibition curated by the architect Matteo Silverio of the **ReHub** studio, which will be hosted by the **Murano Glass Museum** from 7th September 2023 until 6th January 2024. *Murano: Upcycling Glass* aims to highlight the flexibility and skill of sixteen master glassmakers from companies that are officially conceded to use the **Vetro Artistico® Murano** brand trademark. Especially for this occasion, the masters will be challenged to create unique works using recycled crystal glass (monochrome, transparent and

colourless): a glass that we often find at home but which is particularly difficult to work with. The exhibition is organised in collaboration with Fondazione MUVE thanks to the support of **Regione del Veneto** and **Camera di Commercio di Venezia Rovigo**, and with the support of **Città Metropolitana di Venezia** and **Consorzio Recupero Vetro (Co.Re.Ve.)**, the national consortium for the collection, recycling and recovery of glass packaging waste produced throughout Italy.

The Venice Glass Week will also see a new programme of events dedicated to the production of glass beads, recently inscribed by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In particular, the Museum of Palazzo Mocenigo will host a conference titled **Le collezioni di perle dei musei stranieri**, with speakers including representatives of important international institutions and museums. There will be a special focus on archaeological museums, including those which hold previously unseen masterpieces in their collections, which will make a significant contribution to the knowledge of this specific field of study.

The exhibition **Bohemian Glass: The Great Masters**, curated by Caterina Tognon and Sylva Petrová is open to the public at LE STANZE DEL VETRO until 26th November. The exhibition, created in collaboration with the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, presents the work of six great artists of contemporary glass sculpture who were born in the first decades of the twentieth century in Bohemia – the historical name for the largest of the lands that make up the present day Czech Republic: Václav Cigler, Vladimír Kopecký, Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, René Roubíček and Miluše Roubíčková.

The **Murano Glass Museum** will host the exhibition **Stories of Factories. Stories of Families. One hundred years of NasonMoretti. The Story of a Murano Glass Family**, on view until 6th January 2024. Curated by Chiara Squarcina and Cristina Beltrami, the show aims to celebrate one of Murano's most flourishing and original companies, NasonMoretti, which celebrates its centenary in 2023.

From 11th – 13th September, Palazzo Franchetti, headquarters of the **Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti**, will host the **Study Days on Venetian Glass**: an annual programme of in-depth seminars dedicated in particular to conservators, collectors, museum curators and researchers in the sector (the event is open only to subscribers). This year's theme is *Venetian glass across the Alps: Austria, Bohemia and Germany*.

THE PRIZES

During #TheArtofFire, official prizes will be awarded: the **Premio Fondazione di Venezia for The Venice Glass Week** will be presented to the best project in the festival, and the **Autonoma Residency Prize** will be awarded to the best installation in the HUB Under35. All projects in *The Venice Glass Week 2023* will be considered as candidates for the **Premio Fondazione di Venezia for The Venice Glass Week**. The winner will receive a cash prize of € 1,000.00, and at the discretion of the Jury - which is 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** – two other projects may receive a special mention.

The *Autonoma Residency Prize* will be awarded to the best installation within *The Venice Glass Week* HUB Under35. The prize will enable the winner to undertake a two-month residency at Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle (USA) in 2024.

The prizes will be presented at an official award ceremony on Thursday 14th September at Palazzo Franchetti, which will also include the awarding of the **Glass in Venice Prize**, which is now in its eleventh edition, organised by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia. The award is presented to artists and glass masters who have particularly distinguished themselves with their work within the Murano tradition, or elsewhere in the world, via different schools and techniques. This year's winners are the glass technician **Guido Ferro** and the international artist **Giorgio Vigna**. From 9th to 17th September, works by the winners will be exhibited in the atrium of Palazzo Loredan, displayed among the marble effigies of the "Veneto Pantheon" which brings together busts of illustrious personalities who were either born or who lived in Venice.

Full information about the festival, including the event programme, will soon be available on the official **website** www.theveniceglassweek.com. For updates, previews and special content, follow the festival's regularly updated **social media profiles** (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube).

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