

Murano illumina il Mondo **(Murano Lights Up The World)**

Venice, St Mark's Square
24th November 2023 – 29th February 2024

The vaults of the Procuratie Vecchie host an exceptional exhibition of twelve glass chandeliers designed by internationally renowned artists and realised by some of Murano's finest glass masters

The works will illuminate Venice's winter months and raise awareness among residents and visitors about the significance and future of Murano glass

Murano glass meets **international contemporary art** in **St Mark's Square** - the most beautiful drawing room in the world - where for the entire Christmas period between 2023 and 2024, an exceptional series of artworks illuminates the vaults of the *Procuratie Vecchie*. Promoted by **The Venice Glass Week** and **Comune di Venezia**, ***Murano illumina il Mondo*** (Murano Lights Up The World) is a project which - for the very first time - brings an exhibition project to St Mark's Square, shining a spotlight on the significance and future of Murano glass.

Every evening from **24th November 2023 to 29th February 2024**, Venice's residents and visitors will be enchanted by the illumination of **twelve chandeliers** which are the result of the collaboration between **internationally celebrated artists** and **nine of Murano's most prestigious glass furnaces**, renowned for their remarkable technical skills, centuries-old techniques and innovative experimentation. These original masterpieces, specifically created for the exhibition project, enhance the current outdoor lighting system and transform St Mark's Square into the setting for a **truly unique public art intervention**.

*Glass is almost a contradiction: it's cold, but to be produced it needs a lot of heat – stated the **Mayor of Venice, Luigi Brugnaro** - A natural and recyclable material which has found its home in Murano and which is now showcased in the exceptional surroundings of Piazza San Marco, highlighting the excellence of our craftsmanship and the innovation of our traditions. I'd like to thank the glass masters, the artists, the furnaces and all those who have contributed to the realisation of this project, which is*

included in a rich Christmas calendar of events spread throughout the municipal territory.

The artists were all selected by a **Curatorial Committee** made up of **David Landau**, Trustee of Pentagram Stiftung, **Chiara Squarcina**, Director of Museum Activities at Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, and **Rosa Barovier Mentasti**, glass historian. Each of the artists agreed to participate in the project *Murano Illumina Il Mondo* with the shared objective of giving visibility to the island of Murano, not just as a centre of artisanal industry but also as a hotbed of new creative ideas and a crucible for international artistic collaboration and experimentation. The artists include **Philip Baldwin and Monica Guggisberg, Marcantonio Brandolini d'Adda, Federica Marangoni, Michael Craig-Martin, Ritsue Mishima, Cornelia Parker, Maria Grazia Rosin, Silvano Rubino, Lino Tagliapietra, Giorgio Vigna and Pae White**, as well as **students from Murano's Scuola Abate Zanetti**. The furnaces that produced the chandeliers include: **Anfora, Simone Cenedese, Componenti Donà, Salvati in collaboration with Nicola Moretti, Gianni Seguso, Lino Tagliapietra, Barovier&Toso, Wave Murano Glass and Scuola Abate Zanetti**. The coordination of the production, and in particular the relationship between the artists and furnaces, has been managed by **Giordana Naccari**.

Each of the twelve chandeliers has been designed, engineered and created specifically for *Murano Illumina il Mondo* following specific parameters of size, weight and structural characteristics, in order to guarantee **total respect for the delicate location** in which they will be installed, which has never previously hosted other works of art.

Murano illumina il Mondo was made possible thanks to the generosity of the participating artists and furnaces and the collaboration and contribution of numerous sponsors and partners, including: **Pentagram Stiftung, Chahan Interior Design, Generali - The Human Safety Net and Bassetto Impianti, Select Aperitivo**. Special thanks are also given to **Servizio Produzioni Culturali del Comune di Venezia** and **Vela**.

The Venice Glass Week is promoted by Comune di Venezia, Fondazione Musei Civici, LE STANZE DEL VETRO – Fondazione Giorgio Cini and Pentagram Stiftung, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti e Consorzio Promovetro Murano.

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THE TWELVE GLASS CHANDELIERS

NEXTSTOPSATURN

Lino Tagliapietra

Master **Lino Tagliapietra**

The chandelier designed by **Lino Tagliapietra** is inspired by the concepts of sustainability and recycling, from both a material and an intellectual point of view. Without resorting to blowing new glass, he uses sections of some of his previous vases and cuts them into circular modules which display different glass working techniques. The design reproduces the composition of “rullo” glass windows (featuring small circular panes of glass) which are often found in Venetian palaces, while the form recalls a kind of spaceship, created with the support of **Alessandro Vecchiato**.

Rezzonico spoglio

Michael Craig-Martin

Master **Simone Cenedese**

Furnace **Simone Cenedese Murano**

Michael Craig-Martin - who worked with **Simone Cenedese** – has exposed the chandelier's metal structure, which is usually hidden, and covered it with hundreds of pieces of transparent and coloured blown glass to enhance a structure which is linear and free from decoration. The work has the form of a classic Rezzonico chandelier, with long arms and a large empty centre: hanging from a single chain, it branches out in four directions and creates a sense of weightlessness.

Il Redentore

Philip Baldwin & Monica Guggisberg

Furnace **Barovier&Toso**

Philip Baldwin and **Monica Guggisberg** wanted to recall the colours and shapes of the fireworks that feature in Venice's annual Redentore festival. Working with the masters of **Barovier&Toso**, they experimented with the use of new production techniques to create a chandelier that is both classic and contemporary. Simple lines, combined with the shimmering effect of silver leaf, give the chandelier a distinctly modern feel, whilst also recalling the traditions of the 19th and 21st centuries.

Ricami di Luce

Ritsue Mishima

Master **Andrea Zilio**

Furnace **Anfora**

The chandelier by **Ritsue Mishima** and **Andrea Zilio** features a metal supporting structure that divides into two concentric circles, with elements in blown and mirrored transparent glass made by the **Anfora** furnace. Their jagged forms refract the light and resemble spires, with silhouettes that have a vaguely spiritual appearance. The lighting section is composed of blown and sandblasted elements which act as light bulbs.

AZ

Abate Zanetti

ISS Abate Zanetti & Eros Raffael

Master **Eros Raffael**

Furnace **ISS Abate Zanetti with Vetri Speciali**

The students of class 5A of **Scuola Abate Zanetti**, together with maestro **Eros Raffael**, designed and created a work that represents a minimalist and contemporary reinterpretation of the classic Rezzonico chandelier. Based on their studies in the field of graphics, design and glass working, it features blown glass elements inspired by the Venetian Lagoon, with three arms mounted on a metal structure.

Morbida Macchina Silicea

Maria Grazia Rosin

Master **Davide Donà**

Furnace **Componenti Donà**

Maria Grazia Rosin addresses the theme of sustainability with a self-sufficient chandelier that features LED spotlights equipped with solar panels. Covering the supporting metal structure are elements of blue blown glass created by **Componenti Donà**, in various forms and pastel tones found in traditional Venetian stucchi.

Segmenti d'Infinito

Silvano Rubino

Master **Gianni Seguso**

Furnace **Seguso Gianni Murano with Effetre Murano and Neonlauro**

The chandelier designed by **Silvano Rubino** and created by **Gianni Seguso** in collaboration with **Effetre Murano** and **Neonlauro** is composed of around 700 elements and made with glass tubes in two tones of aquamarine. The three concentric cylinders recall the compositional motifs of chandeliers from the '60s and '70s, and the tubes, if placed side by side, would form an ideal line of approximately 350 metres in length. The idea of infinity? One can imagine that the series of segments forms part of an infinite line.

Sunset in your pocket

Pae WhiteMaster **Simone Cenedese**Furnace **Simone Cenedese Murano**

Pae White entrusted **Simone Cenedese** with the creation of her chandelier, in which 72 Murano glass ribbons form a Californian sunset: a fleeting moment made visible at any time in the heart of Venice. The artist explores the luminosity and transience that is transmitted and preserved in the glass.

Nature di Luce

Marcantonio Brandolini d'Adda

Master **Roberto Beltrami**Furnace **Wave Murano Glass**

The chandelier conceived by **Marcantonio Brandolini d'Adda** - thanks to the structure realised by Paolo Rossetto - is able to host a self-sufficient plant ecosystem in which soil and plants live and feed themselves via the Murano glass water containers and the light of the chandelier itself. It was created in collaboration with designer Giacomo Bernello and technical designer Alberto Furtack, and involved the participation of the University of Padua, Wave Murano Glass and maestro **Roberto Beltrami**.

Scomposizione di un volo-Tema naturalistico dedicato a Venezia**Federica Marangoni**Master **Simone Cenedese**Furnace **Simone Cenedese Murano**

The design of **Federica Marangoni's** chandelier, which was realised with **Simone Cenedese**, was inspired by the seagull - a bird which plays a prominent role in the Lagoon city of Venice. The classic structure, featuring a ceiling cup and a larger diffuser cup below, is ironically decorated with webbed feet and long legs that run down the central tube and almost seem to support the luminous sculpture. A crown of large crystal feathers recalls a motif often found in chandeliers, and four protruding lamp holders form the heads, with long yellow beaks and eyes made from murrine.

Siphonophora**Giorgio Vigna**Furnace **Barovier & Toso**

Giorgio Vigna's work, realised by **Barovier&Toso**, is inspired by wind and water. Creating a sense of movement and fluidity, the chandelier appears to move or sway with the rhythm of the wind. The suspended sculpture radiates light from faceted elements of transparent and colourless crystal glass, producing unexpected luminous effects. The structure, like the veins of a leaf, adds movement and creates connections between the natural worlds.

The Arnolfini Portrait (Once Removed), 2023-Glass Chandelier, lit from one side

Cornelia Parker

Furnace **Salviati** with **Nicola Moretti**

Cornelia Parker was inspired by the six-armed chandelier depicted in Jan van Eyck's celebrated painting *The Arnolfini Portrait* (1434), and to represent it in glass she drew on a double collaboration. The central body of the work was created in blown glass by **Salviati**, while the arms were produced by **Nicola Moretti**, who used a water laser to cut through glass and render their complex perforated contours in three-dimensional form.



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