

***The Venice Glass Week will be #AWorldofGlass:
the most international edition ever, with over 300
applications from 45 countries to celebrate the
universal vitality of artistic glass***

The festival returns for its eighth edition from 14th to 22nd September around Venice, Murano and Mestre, with a wealth of international artists and multiple collaborations

New highlights include free guided tours with an aperitif in selected furnaces, curated by Select and in collaboration with Homo Faber in Città; the Glass Bateo by Consorzio Promovetro Murano that will voyage through the Venice canals; and the new Family Programme in collaboration with MUVE Education

VENICE, 12th July 2024 – There are just two months to go until the **eighth edition** of **The Venice Glass Week**, the international festival created in 2017 to celebrate, support and promote the art of glass, which will be held in Venice, Murano and Mestre **from 14th to 22nd September 2024**. As per tradition, once again this year the event will have a new "title-hashtag": **#AWorldofGlass**, intended to celebrate the fascinating and creative universe of artistic glass, both locally and globally.

This year's festival is characterised by its internationality, having received the highest ever number of applications with over 300 submissions by candidates from 45 countries (including Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, South Korea, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Nigeria, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia, Syria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, and the United States), which were evaluated and carefully selected by the Curatorial Committee. Chaired by the Venetian glass historian Rosa Barovier Mentasti, other members of the Committee include 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; and Alma Zevi, art historian, writer and curator.

The multitude of applications - from foundations, art galleries, museum institutions, cultural institutions, universities, glassworks, furnaces, companies and artists from Italy and abroad - testify to the great vitality of the artistic, cultural and production scene in the glass sector, not only in the city, but also around the world.

Among the important aspects of #AWorldofGlass is a new partnership with **Homo Faber**, which from 1st to 30th September will showcase the best of contemporary craftsmanship at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini. As part of the partnership, in collaboration with **Homo Faber in Città**, the festival will offer **The Venice Glass Week Tours by Select**: free guided tours with an aperitif in a number of historic Murano furnaces, curated by **Select**, which this year is once again the festival's Official Cocktail Sponsor. Thanks to Select, every tour will conclude with a traditional Venetian "aperitivo".

In collaboration with Select, there will also be *The Venice Glass Week Closing Party*, the festival's official closing event, which will take place on Sunday 22nd September at Ca' Select, situated in a restored building that previously housed an artisanal metalworking workshop in the Cannaregio district (admission by invitation only).

The **Glass Bateo**, conceived by the Consorzio Promovetro Murano, will traverse the canals of Venice for the duration of the festival. Especially for the occasion, one of the fleet of Actv waterbuses (traditionally referred to by Venetians as a 'bateo') will be **refitted in order to host events, demonstrations and workshops**, with the aim of introducing the fascinating history and appeal of Murano's artistic glass to the widest possible public.

The festival will feature activities for children as well as adults: of particular note is the **Family Programme** organised by **MUVE Education**. Titled *Storie d'arte, di sabbia e di fuoco* (Stories of art, sand and fire), a guided itinerary will lead families through the rooms of the Museo del Vetro di Murano, which houses world-famous works of artistic glass that, over the centuries and in contemporary times, have expressed the technical expertise of glass masters and the creativity of artists and designers. The tour will conclude with a demonstration in the furnace of the **Scuola del Vetro Abate Zanetti**, one of the most important glassmaking institutions on the island.

The programme of *The Venice Glass Week* will once again include a large variety of initiatives for all ages, staged all over the territory, also including Murano and Mestre. The majority of events will be free of charge.

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

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 and Consorzio Promovetro Murano, and is once again designated by the Regione del Veneto as one of the official "Major Events" of the territory in 2024.

The 2024 edition of the festival is also supported by many **partners** who believe in the project, including **Select, Homo Faber / Michelangelo Foundation, Pentagram Stiftung, Camera di Commercio di Venezia Rovigo with Sistema Camerale Veneto and VenicePromex, Fondazione di Venezia, Vela, Intesa Sanpaolo and Nexa - Event & Travel Designers. GreenSpin** is a Technical Sponsor.

THE VENICE GLASS WEEK HUBs

Once again, 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. For the first time this year, all exhibiting artists will participate free of charge. *The Venice Glass Week HUB*, situated in the magnificent rooms on the first floor, will feature a series of installations by 25 Italian and international glass artists aged 36 and over. *The Venice Glass Week HUB Under35*, featuring installations by 19 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 2024 programme of interventions for economic promotion and internationalization, in collaboration with **Camera di Commercio Venezia Rovigo, Sistema Camerale Veneto and Venicepromex**.

THE PROJECTS PRESENTED BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The **Organising Committee** of *The Venice Glass Week* is presenting many initiatives this year. As previously mentioned, Consorzio Promovetro Murano will present *Glass Bateo*, in collaboration with Comune di Venezia, Vela Spa and Actv, and with the support of the Regione del Veneto and Camera di Commercio di Venezia Rovigo. It will be a travelling experience that will take the art of Murano glassmaking and the Vetro Artistico® Murano trademark around the city thanks to a vaporetto that will be refitted to host events, workshops and demonstrations. Glass will be the great protagonist of the vessel's interior, with an installation that will feature a selection of objects made by the licensees of the Vetro Artistico® Murano trademark, staged with the aim of celebrating the craftsmanship of the Murano furnaces and their universal and dynamic art. The project, curated by architect Matteo Silverio, will become a mobile stage, capable of travelling and transforming the spots where the boat moors. Inside the vaporetto, glass will not simply be displayed; it will enliven and be integrated into the space, demonstrating how Murano craftsmanship can transcend the mere decorative object.

The festival will also see a new programme of initiatives dedicated to the production of glass beads, inscribed by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and promoted by the **Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia**. During the festival, **Museo Correr** will host the conference **Perle 4.0**, a thematic in-depth study day, now in its fourth edition, focusing on the historical-artistic aspects of the art of glass bead making, from antiquity to the present day. The topics covered will be the technological developments that have characterised and accompanied the production of glass beads over the centuries, and the dissemination of these objects via local and long-range commercial relationships.

In addition, Fondazione MUVE will organise, in collaboration with **Comune di Venezia**, a series of initiatives involving the mainland. **Bicchieri in vetrina** (*Glasses in the Window*) will be a widespread exhibition in the shops in the centre of Mestre which, for this occasion, will become an original museum exhibition path through the streets of the city. Glasses, jugs and bottles will be transformed from simple functional objects into true works of art thanks to the skilful work of glass artisans who, in the heat of the furnaces, perpetuate a timeless art which is

projected towards the future. Also in Mestre, the **Biblioteca Civica VEZ** will present ***L'arte della tavola: i bicchieri in vetro della Carlo Moretti*** (*The Art of the Table: the glasses of Carlo Moretti*), featuring part of the important donation of 453 works by the Carlo Moretti company, which arrived at the Murano Glass Museum in 2020.

In addition, at the Biblioteca Civica VEZ in Mestre, **Comune di Venezia** in collaboration with the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa will organise ***Call for Glass***, a workshop and talk for young artists with designer Giulio Cappellini, involving an experimental reflection on glass design.

In Palazzetto Tito, one of the homes of Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, Comune di Venezia will host ***Lo spazio infranto*** (*The Broken Darkness*), a solo exhibition by Franco Beraldo, with a selection of Murano glass works created in recent years by the artist using the techniques of blown glass, submerged glass and glass fusion. There will also be educational activities for adults and students for the duration of the exhibition.

Fondazione MUVE is also staging various other exhibitions, including ***Il vetro inciso veneziano del XVIII secolo*** (*Lagoon Engraved Glass*) organised in collaboration with the Comitato Vetri di Laguna at **Palazzo Mocenigo**. On view from 14th September to 8th January, the show will present a selection of engraved and ground 18th-century Venetian glass, most of which has never been seen before. Meanwhile, from 14th to 22nd September, **Palazzo Ducale** will host ***La difesa a Palazzo Ducale. Sarah Revoltella***, a large suit of armour created from blown glass, which is intended to prompt a reflection on the value of defence, both in terms of the prevention of war and from an individual and subjective point of view.

Casa Goldoni will also host the exhibition ***Forbidden Garden*** by artist Jolanda Prinsen, featuring an installation made of empty wine bottles that have been reheated and shaped.

Additionally, the exhibition ***Federica Marangoni On the Road 1970-2024 | Non Solo Vetro***, curated by Chiara Squarcina and Federica Marangoni, will continue until 24th November at the **Museo del Vetro di Murano**. The exhibition traces the long career of the Venetian artist and designer, focusing on her special relationship with glass and Murano, from her early works to the present day.

Until 24th November **LE STANZE DEL VETRO** stages the exhibition ***1912-1930. Murano Glass and the Venice Biennale***, curated by Marino Barovier. The exhibition is dedicated to the presence of Murano glass at the prestigious Venetian event, examining the period between 1912 and 1930 through a discerning selection of 135 works, many of which are extremely rare and on loan from leading museums and private collections.

At Palazzo Franchetti, home of the **Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti**, the ***Giornate di studio sul vetro veneziano*** (*Study Days on Venetian Glass*) will be held from 16th to 18th September: an annual programme of in-depth seminars dedicated in particular to glass experts from all over Europe and the United States, including museum conservators, collectors, restorers and glass artists (the event is open only to subscribers). This year's theme will be *Venetian glass in Sicily, Spain and Portugal and its influence on their glass production*.

PRIZES

During #AWorldOfGlass, official prizes will be awarded: the fourth edition of the **Premio Fondazione di Venezia for The Venice Glass Week**, and the **Autonoma Residency Prize**. All projects in *The Venice Glass Week* 2024 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 2025.

Full information about the festival will soon be available on the **official website** www.theveniceglassweek.com. In September the complete programme will be available online in PDF format, and 15,000 copies of the official printed map, produced in collaboration with VeneziaNews, will be distributed at the Info points in Campo Santo Stefano in Venice and Piazzale Colonna in Murano, as well as in the venues of the festival participants. It will also be available to download via the festival website. For updates, previews and special content, follow the festival's regularly updated **social media profiles** (Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram and YouTube).

For further information:

info@theveniceglassweek.com
www.theveniceglassweek.com

Press and Communications Office
CASADOROFUNGHER Comunicazione

Elena Casadoro Kopp

m +39 334 8602488
elena@casadorofungher.com

Francesca Fungher

m +39 349 3411211
francesca@casadorofungher.com

Francesca De Pra

m +39 345 2535925
francescadepra@casadorofungher.com
www.casadorofungher.com