

New artist-designed chandeliers shine under the Procuratie
Vecchie in St Mark's Square, as part of
Murano Illumina il Mondo (*Murano Lights Up The World*)
Venice, St Mark's Square
From 22nd November 2024 to 4th March 2025

Eleven internationally celebrated artists, including Joseph Kosuth, Kengo Kuma and Philippe Starck, have collaborated with some of Murano's finest glass masters to create exceptional glass chandeliers that will be exhibited under the vaults of the Procuratie Vecchie

Venice, 22nd November 2024 - **Murano glass** is returning to illuminate “the world's most beautiful drawing room”, **St Mark's Square in Venice**, with the second edition of ***Murano Illumina il Mondo***, the project that is organised and promoted by ***The Venice Glass Week*** and **Comune di Venezia**. This year's edition involves the participation of eleven internationally renowned artists and architects including **Joseph Kosuth, Kengo Kuma and Philippe Starck**, who were asked to reinterpret an everyday object, the chandelier, using traditional and modern glassmaking techniques.

All of the artists accepted the challenge to design chandeliers using Murano glass. Working in close collaboration with expertly skilled Murano glass masters, they produced **highly original projects** that each demonstrate the winning alliance between glass and contemporary art.

For the entire winter period, from 22nd November 2024 to 4th March 2025, Venice's residents and visitors alike will be able to admire the eleven chandeliers that will be lit every evening at dusk. The chandeliers are the result of the collaboration with **eleven of Murano's leading glass furnaces**, renowned for their remarkable technical skills, centuries-old techniques and innovative experimentation.

The artists and designers were selected by a **Curatorial Committee** composed of **Rosa Barovier Mentasti**, glass historian; **David Landau**, Trustee of Pentagram Stiftung; **Chiara Squarcina**, Scientific Director of the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia; and curators **Mario Codognato**

and **Alma Zevi**. Each of the artists and designers agreed to participate in the project with the shared objective of giving visibility to the island of Murano, not just as a centre of an artisanal industry but also as a hotbed of new creative ideas and a crucible for international artistic collaboration and experimentation.

“In the prestigious setting of St. Mark's Square, once again the ancient art of Murano glass is combined with the mastery of eleven internationally renowned artists, who have chosen to celebrate La Serenissima by creating new chandeliers. The centuries-old traditions of Venice come to life through these unique works,” states the Mayor of Venice, Luigi Brugnaro. “After the success of the first edition which took place last year, we have decided to stage the second edition of “Murano Illumina il Mondo”. It will be a great open-air exhibition, in the heart of the city, which can be visited with the utmost freedom. A tribute to the extraordinary skills and talent of the master glassmakers, at a crossroads of research, quality and innovation, in Venice, the oldest city of the future.”

“The Organising Committee of The Venice Glass Week, which has long been committed to promoting and enhancing the appreciation of Venetian glass via the festival that takes place each year in September, has successfully staged this ambitious project for the second year running” – continued Giovanna Palandri, Chancellor of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and President of the Organising Committee of The Venice Glass Week – “A high-profile Curatorial Committee was asked to take on the challenge of selecting world-famous artists and pairing them with furnaces and masters capable of interpreting and realizing the proposed designs. The result is this exhibition of 11 remarkable chandeliers, true works of art, which, situated in the most beautiful square in the world, will brighten the Christmas of everyone who lives in and visits our city”.

The artists and designers involved in the exhibition are: **Emmanuel Babled, Deborah Czeresko, Fiedler O Mastrangelo, Joseph Kosuth, Kengo Kuma, Philippe Starck and Aristide Najean, Marina e Susanna Sent, Arturo Tedeschi, Hans Weigand, Kimiko Yoshida**, as well as students from Murano's **Scuola Abate Zanetti**.

The furnaces that produced the chandeliers are: **Barbini Specchi Veneziani, Berengo Studio, Giorgio Giuman, ISS Abate Zanetti, Marina e Susanna Sent, Massimiliano Schiavon Art Team, Najean & Sy, NasonMoretti, Nicola Moretti + Vetrare Artistiche Murano, Salviati e Seguso Gianni Murano**. The coordination of the production and the liaison between the artists, designers and furnaces was managed by **Matteo Silverio**.

All of the chandeliers have 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.

The Organising Committee of *The Venice Glass Week* is composed of: Comune di Venezia, Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, LE STANZE DEL VETRO – Fondazione Giorgio Cini and Pentagram Stiftung, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and Consorzio Promovetro Murano.

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THE ELEVEN GLASS CHANDELIERS

AZ 2024

ISS Abate Zanetti

Master **Eros Raffael**

Furnace **ISS Abate Zanetti**

The AZ2024 chandelier is a collective project realised by the students of Istituto Abate Zanetti together with master Eros Raffael. The chandelier is composed of organic spheres made of mirrored crystal and sandblasted crystal, along with decorated spheres recalling the colours of the Rezzonico chandelier. The central disc is a mirror.

Bilancia

Marina e Susanna Sent

for Marina e Susanna Sent

Marina and Susanna Sent have always been fascinated by the “bilancia” fishing nets used in the Northern Lagoon of Venice. The clean, essential lines and geometric shapes of these nets were the inspiration for a pendant lamp, made by hand using the lampworking technique. The elements are woven onto fishing line.

Colpo di vento

Kimiko Yoshida

Master **Gianni Seguso**

Furnace **Seguso Gianni Murano**

Kimiko Yoshida and Gianni Seguso's chandelier reinterprets the classic *Rezzonico* “barchetta”, inspired by the colours of the cherry blossom, the national symbol of Japan. 18 LED bulbs represent a gust of wind, a metaphor for the transition between classical tradition and contemporary creation, between figuration and abstraction, between Venetian rococo and Japanese minimalism.

dieXe**Kengo Kuma**Furnace **Salviati**

dieXe, meaning “ten” in Venetian Language, is a celebration of Venetian history, in which the ‘X’ symbolises interlocking and unity. Further reinforcing the link between the work and the territory is the choice of colour: the iconic Salviati peacock green, which represents the magnetic hues of the Lagoon. Venetian inspirations combine with the concept of ‘parcelling’, a theme that Kengo Kuma often engages with, reinterpreted by Salviati through the development of special interlocking modules, composed of glass units that capture the essence of the wooden *bricole* in the Lagoon.

Digit Light**Emmanuel Babled**Master **Marino Gabrielli**Furnace **NasonMoretti**

Digit Light is a chandelier composed by 23 hand-blown glass spheres and 8 light sources inspired by 1960s pop culture. The spheres are assembled with a high level of precision using computer technology, although the intentional impression is one of randomness. Luminous and reflective spheres mingle with each other, creating a joyful and celestial illumination, as if the spheres were floating in the air.

Enlighten's the Word**Joseph Kosuth**Master **Marco Barbini**Furnace **Barbini Specchi Veneziani**

Joseph Kosuth, in collaboration with Barbini Specchi Veneziani, has chosen to work with mirrored glass, creating the abstract silhouette of a classical *Rezzonico* and turning it into a three-dimensional and self-mirroring chandelier. *Enlighten's the Word* is a work that reflects on its own construction as well as on the history and culture of its location. The installation is a play on the more philosophical and political notions stemming from the ‘Enlightenment’.

Inariaa**Arturo Tedeschi**

Masters **Nicola Moretti** and **Stefano Bullo**

Furnace **Nicola Moretti + Vetrare Artistiche Murano**

This chandelier features a geometric design composed of interconnected polyhedral elements, creating a dynamic and ethereal effect. The lamp evokes the image of a crystalline formation suspended and floating in the air. The original concept form was developed using Generative AI techniques to quickly produce a wide range of iterations. The selected design was subsequently refined with optimization algorithms to flatten the surfaces and create a seamless geometric loop. Each polyhedron is created by cutting and assembling flat glass elements, allowing light to diffuse in a soft and uniform manner.

Quadri

Philippe Starck, Aristide Najean

Master **Cristiano Rossetto**

Furnace **Najean & Sy**

Philippe Starck and Aristide Najean have created a surrealistic chandelier in dark amethyst, a dream that in part comes from the mind, heart and creative fantasy of the great French creator, reflecting a powerful concentration of mystery, beauty, oddity and poetry.

Solomon Chopsticks

Fiedler O Mastrangelo

Master **Giorgio Giuman + Michele Urban** (glass grinding)

Furnace **Giorgio Giuman**

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The artistic duo Fiedler O Mastrangelo presents *Solomon Chopsticks*, an artwork that encapsulates a conceptual idea through abstract lines and light. The centerpiece takes the form of chopsticks, embodying symbolic significance beyond their practical function. Just as these utensils demand dexterity in handling, the creative process requires ingenuity to shape and refine ideas. The weaving of lines around the chopsticks evokes the Knot of Solomon, a symbol of eternity without beginning or end. The union of these two elements encapsulates what the duo considers the essence of their creative process: an eternal journey of artistry, continuously tying and untying infinite knots.

TransFormation

Deborah Czeresko

Masters **Giorgio Valentini, Claudio Zama e Massimiliano Schiavon + Wili Bardella** (glass grinding)

Furnace **Massimiliano Schiavon Art Team**

The collaboration between Deborah Czeresko and Massimiliano Schiavon reimagines the traditional glass chandelier by replacing its S-shaped arms with the sinuous forms of a snake's body. Like the snake that sheds its skin in the process of transformation, the piece subverts the familiar role of light as a benign presence. Instead, the light takes on a more charged quality, emerging from the mouth of each snake as a symbol of release, transformation, and the unpredictable nature of change. The snake's venomous bite is re-contextualized as a potent force of illumination.

Venetian Wavebreakers Chandelier

Hans Weigand

Master **Nicola Causin**

Furnace **Berengo Studio**

The chandelier designed by Hans Weigand, realized by maestro Nicola Causin, depicts two wavebreakers that are made entirely of glass. The fragility of the glass contrasts with the massive structure of the wave breaker which is normally made from cement. The contrast of the form and the material symbolizes the fragility of nature and of Venice in particular, which is increasingly being confronted with the phenomenon of rising water levels, especially due to climate change.

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