LE STANZE DEL VETRO

*A Fondazione Giorgio Cini and Pentagram Stiftung project*

Venice, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore

13 April – 23 November 2025

***1932-1942 Murano Glass and the Venice Biennale***

**Curated by Marino Barovier**

***The second chapter of the exhibition program dedicated to the presence of Murano glass at the Venice Biennale will examine the time period between 1932 and 1942, when Murano furnaces collaborated with artists and designers such as Carlo Scarpa, Flavio Poli and Dino Martens to showcase their best production***

The forthcoming exhibition organized by LE STANZE DEL VETRO will be ***1932-1942*** ***Murano Glass and the Venice Biennale***, curated by **Marino Barovier**, which will run on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore **from 13 April to 23 November 2025**.

The show is a further step of the exhibition program launched in 2024 dedicated to the history of Murano glass at the Venice Biennale and it will examine the time period from 1932 to 1942, a time span corresponding respectively to the inauguration of the **Venice Pavilion** and to the last edition of the Biennale before the interruption caused by the Second World War.

Starting from 1932, Murano glass was featured at the Biennale in a **dedicated space**, i.e. the Venice Pavilion, built specifically for the **decorative arts** thanks to the collaboration between the Venice Biennale and the ‘Istituto Veneto per il Lavoro’. The importance and the quality of the so-called ‘minor arts’ were thus officially acknowledged, and a selection of them was chosen to be presented to the general public at the Venice Art Biennale.

This was a period of great creativity and experimentation with materials and colours, both through the revisiting of ancient techniques and the development of new glassmaking processes. The success of **opaque glass**, with vivid colours, was notable, alongside with **heavy, thick glass**, often embellished with bubbles, delicate colour nuances or with gold leaf applications.

Thanks to the recurrent staging of this prestigious event, such exhibits had a profound effect on Murano, which over the course of successive editions took the opportunity to present **its best glass productions**, making the most of the impetus provided by the Biennale. The Venice Biennale not only served as an outstanding showcase, but through its artistic vibrancy and international reach it provided fruitful exposure to glassworks and the world of artistic glass in all its complexity.

Among the furnaces, **Venini** stood out thanks to the collaboration with **Carlo Scarpa**, while **Barovier Seguso Ferro**, later **Seguso Vetri d’Arte**, availed itself of the partnership with **Flavio Poli**; the painter **Dino Martens** first collaborated with **Salviati** and **Successori Rioda**, and then with **Aureliano Toso**. Other glassworks that, in those years, exploited the potential of the glass medium were **AVEM**, the historic furnace Barovier, **Cirillo Maschio**, **Ulderico Moretti**, **S.A.I.A.R. Ferro Toso**, **Fratelli Toso**, **V.A.M.S.A.** and **S.A.L.I.R**.

The accompanying **catalogue** is edited by **Marino Barovier** and **Carla Sonego**, and benefits from their painstaking bibliographic and in-depth documentary research in the **Biennale’s Historical Archive of Contemporary Arts** (ASAC) and in other public and private archives. The catalogue illustrates with vintage photos, drawings and documentary material what was shown at the Biennale in that period.

In anticipation of the exhibition, we would like to remind you that the online bookshop of LE STANZE DEL VETRO at www.lestanzedelvetro.org is always open with a wide selection of specialist books for glass lovers. You can also purchase a selection of DVDs and catalogues from former exhibitions at LE STANZE DEL VETRO at a special price.

To keep up to date with the latest news, we recommend following the social media profiles (@lestanzedelvetro) and subscribing to the monthly newsletter via the website.

**Information:**

Production: Fondazione Giorgio Cini and Pentagram Stiftung

Title: ***1932-1942 Murano Glass and the Venice Biennale***

Curator: Marino Barovier

Dates: 13 April – 23 November 2025

Opening hours: 10am – 7pm, closed on Wednesdays

Venue: LE STANZE DEL VETRO, Fondazione Giorgio Cini

Address: Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice

Tickets: Free entry

Catalogue: Marsilio Arte

Info: info@lestanzedelvetro.org, [info@cini.it](mailto:info@cini.it)

Web: www.lestanzedelvetro.org, www.cini.it

**Getting there:**

Visitors to the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore can take the Actv 2-line *vaporetto* to the San Giorgio stop from:

San Zaccaria (journey time of approx. 3 minutes)

Train Station (journey time of approx. 45 minutes)

Piazzale Roma (journey time of approx. 40 minutes)

Tronchetto (journey time of approx. 35 minutes)

**For further information:**

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