

BERENGO STUDIO



Newsletter

2017 ▶ 2018



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Berengo Studio, the home of contemporary art and glass on Murano, and Fondazione Berengo celebrate the close of a wonderful 2017, which highlighted the fifth iteration of Glasstress presented concurrently with the 57th Venice Biennale of Art. Since 1989, Berengo Studio has been working with artists from all over the world, over 300 in total, introducing them to the magic of glass and, together with their creativity, shattering expectations of glass art forever.

FONDAZIONE BERENGO

Fondazione Berengo, the sponsoring institution of Glasstress, was founded to promote and enhance the glassmaking traditions of Murano. In an old furnace, unused for decades, it opened a permanent exhibition space as a second venue of Glasstress and as a museum for its permanent collection of contemporary art and glass. Fondazione Berengo also collaborates with other institutions in presenting exhibitions of art, architecture and design including events in the architectural biennale. For the past several years, it has welcomed young artists and artisans to provide them with the opportunity to work in glass in its residency program.



GLASSTRESS 2017

11.05 ▶ 26.11.2017

Since 2009 Glasstress has delighted visitors at the Palazzo Franchetti in Venice, the city where glass was born, and this year was no exception. Staged again in the historic Palazzo Franchetti on the Grand Canal, GLASSTRESS 2017 featured more than 38 artists from 21 countries whose works employed a range of themes from the sexual and political, to ones that are purely aesthetic. For the political, Ai Weiwei's now iconic raised "Up Yours" middle finger was cast in glass and stood guard over his enormous white chandelier with glass Twitter birds, surveillance cameras and handcuffs. On a sexual note, Paul McCarthy's "Trees" made for the first time in glass did not disappoint while Monica Bonvicini fashioned "Bonded" from belts of shiny black glass.

Tony Cragg
Untitled, 2017
glass, 84 × 21 × 14 cm

The American artist, Sarah Sze surrounded the Palazzo with shards of broken glass protecting each window and ledge while Vik Muniz created historical glasses your grandmother would collect and covet except for the fact that they are almost two meters tall. Erwin Wurm and Brigitte Kowanz, the artists who represented Austria in this year's Art Biennale, also created new works in Berengo Studio on Murano. Wurm's "Venetian Sausages" and hot water bottles walk on glass legs while Kowanz's "Vo-lumen" reflects her special way of connecting light, space and language. Glasstress also featured Karen Lamonte's series of graceful and elegant figures cast in glass and the new work "Swarm Study" by Random International, famed for the "Rain Room" recently purchased by LACMA. A crystal tower by Tony Cragg, considered to be one of today's most important sculptors, and Thomas Schütte, whose "Gartenzwerge" will surprise his fans, kept company in the exhibition with works by Charles Avery and Ugo Rondinone. This year's Glasstress was curated by Adriano Berengo, Dimitri Ozerkov of the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, Herwig Kempinger, Director of the Secession Museum in Vienna, in consultation with Clare Davies, Assistant Curator of Middle Eastern Art from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Dustin Yellin
Invisible Sisyphus, 2017 / detail
glass, collage, acrylic,
40.6 × 40.6 × 20.3 cm





PROTECTED PARADISE

The garden of the Palazzo Franchetti was home to “Protected Paradise” an installation by Koen Vanmechelen, the renowned Belgian conceptual artist whose work involves themes of biodiversity, fertility, and the human condition. His imposing sculpture stands over 12 meters high and shows a marble egg sitting on broken glass, and imprisoned in a cage. The egg is sheltered and protected by huge bronze tree branches but threatened by a giant claw. The work is a statement by the artist on the stance of the human animal in our rapidly changing world. The work is composed of glass, bronze, marble and recycled household plastics and was generously supported by the Belgian company, ECO-Oh! and promoted by the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) as a special project of Glasstress.

Koen Vanmechelen

Protected Paradise, 2017
glass, fiberglass, marble, bronze,
recycled plastic, 12 × 10 × 6 m



Loris Gréaud
The Unplayed Notes Factory, 2017
glass, light bulbs, metal, from 30 to 60cm (diameter),
each piece / variable dimensions (installation), performance

THE UNPLAYED NOTES FACTORY

As a special project of Glasstress, the French artist, Loris Gréaud, considered to be one of the most influential artists of his generation, resurrected an abandoned glass furnace on Murano. His spellbinding installation and performance work, “The Unplayed Notes Factory,” curated by Nicolas Bourriaud, was a true tableau vivant. Smoke filled the furnace, flames shot up to the ceiling which was lined with over 1,000 grey-hued glass clouds. Lights glowed and dimmed with a brooding soundtrack of shattering glass in the background that called to mind a suspense scene in a science-fiction film while glassblowers worked in a corner continuously creating and breaking the ceiling clouds.

ROBERT WILSON IN GLASS

03.09 ▶ 26.11.2017

Fondazione Berengo was proud to present the exhibition Robert Wilson in Glass at the Palazzo Franchetti in the context of Glasstress. Known as the avant-garde visionary of theater and opera, Wilson is also a visual artist who turned his hand to glass with his signature use of light and design.

Glass was the perfect medium for Wilson, who considers light to be a “magic wand.” With his video portrait of an owl in the background, his works in soft colored glass evoked a sense of serenity. The exhibition was curated by Jean Blanchaert and Noah Khoshbin.

Robert Wilson and curator
Jean Blanchaert at Fondazione
Berengo, Palazzo Franchetti, Venice





GLASSTRESS BOCA RATON

31.01 ▶ 02.07.2017

Glasstress hit the road again. This year it traveled to the Boca Raton Museum in Florida accompanied by two of the exhibiting artists, Koen Vanmechelen and Marya Kazoun. Kazoun opened the five month long exhibition with her performance piece. Glasstress Boca Raton was part of the museum's new curatorial initiative to examine areas traditionally considered "craft," but which present alternative mediums to contemporary artists.

The exhibition occupied the entire museum and featured glass installations by over 30 artists from 23 countries chosen by the exhibition's curator, Kathleen Goncharov. Glasstress Boca Raton incorporated performance, video, interactive media, design, and even a video game. To create works especially commissioned for this show, Carol Prusa, a Boca Raton artist, traveled to Murano to work with the glass maestros in Berengo Studio. This cutting-edge exhibition was designed to challenge visitors' notion of glass as a "beautiful" and decorative material. The show was a great success welcoming thousands of visitors in Southern Florida.

Marya Kazoun
at the Boca Raton
Museum of Art,
Florida



The Belgian artist and human rights activist, Koen Vanmechelen, with the support of Fondazione Berengo and the Belgian recycling company ECO-Oh!, donated his beautiful marble sculpture entitled “Collective Memory” to the EIUC. The sculpture depicts a child who represents the birth of democracy while sitting proudly on five volumes of books inscribed with the United Nations’ human rights protocols. The sculpture is permanently installed in the cloister of the Monastery of San Nicolò, the campus for the EIUC on the Venice Lido.

EIUC AND FONDAZIONE BERENGO

The EIUC/Global Campus for Human Rights is a unique network of more than 100 universities worldwide and is the largest institution for education in human rights issues. In April 2017, Fondazione Berengo and the EIUC signed a collaboration protocol based on the strong belief shared by both institutions that art, more than any other means of communication, is a powerful medium to promote the universal values of human rights to the wider public. Together they sponsored several “HumanRightsStress” events in the context of Glasstress including hosting representatives from the UN and UNESCO at the Palazzo Franchetti.



Koen Vanmechelen
Collective Memory, 2017
marble

Adriano Berengo and Manfred Nowak,
Secretary General of the EIUC,
sign the collaboration agreement

THE GLASS ART SOCIETY COMES TO VENICE

What better place could there be than Murano, the island of glass, for the annual conference of the Glass Art Society (GAS)? Over 1,500 artists, artisans, students, gallerists and lovers of glass art from around the world are expected to attend the society's annual meeting entitled "Il Percorso di Vetro – The Glass Path" on Murano from May 16 to 20, 2018. Sponsored in part by Fondazione Berengo, "The Glass Path" will take attendees from Murano's rich history of glass to its future with an extraordinary exhibition of chandeliers in the Berengo Exhibition Space by renowned contemporary artists including Ai Weiwei and Joana Vasconcelos. Berengo Studio will also welcome attendees with four demonstrations in the furnace on each of the three days of the conference.



Thomas Schütte and Adriano Berengo at GLASSTRESS 2017, Palazzo Franchetti

Ai Weiwei and his "Blossom Chandelier" in the Berengo Exhibition Space, Murano

Vik Muniz
Quantum Leap, 2017
glass, variable dimensions (installation)



VIK MUNIZ, AFTERGLOW: PICTURES OF RUIN

21.04 ▶ 24.07.2017

Vik Muniz presented “Afterglow: Pictures of Ruin” at the Palazzo Cini as an homage to Fondazione Cini and the city of Venice. This special project featured a beautiful, massive-scale reproduction of a historical Venetian wine glass that was realized in our studio.

LAURENT REYPENS, IN SLOW MOTION

18.11.2017

In November, Laurent Reyrens opened a new exhibition of recent paintings and sculptures, including glassworks created at Berengo Studio. The occasion also marked the publication of “In Slow Motion,” a new catalogue which presents a historical perspective of his work.

LAURE PROUVOST AT THE SERPENTINE GALLERY

02.03 ▶ 21.05.2017

The French artist Laure Prouvost was featured in “Speak” at the Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London. Her work was shown in GLASSTRESS 2017 and in London, her multi-sensory immersive installation included glass pieces created in our furnace.



Laure Prouvost and Marco Berengo,
Berengo Studio, Murano

Sabine Wiedenhofer and Adriano
Berengo, Berengo Studio, Murano



Sarah Sze,
Berengo Studio,
Murano

Charles Avery,
Berengo Studio,
Murano



THOMMY BREMBERG RETURNS

Returning to work with us on Murano after a long hiatus, our old friend Thommy Bremberg, the Swedish glass-poet, created the new piece “Abused Ammunition.”

ROSEMARIE BENEDIKT

Austrian artist Rosemarie Benedikt also returned to our furnace in November to realize a new series of works to be presented to the public in 2018.

PEGGY GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION, BE MAGIC

In October, as part of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection's "Be Magic" Program for primary school-aged children, 20 children and their parents enjoyed a day in our furnace. After a talk on how glass and glass art is made, the children were asked to make a drawing. One of the drawings was then brought to life in glass by the maestro to the amazement of the children and their parents who watched in the furnace.

ROSE WYLIE AT THE TATE

Acclaimed British painter Rose Wylie recently collaborated with us to realize a series of works in her fanciful style that will be on display for two-years in the Member's Lounge at the Tate Modern and Tate Britain.

Vik Muniz
Individuals, 2017
glass, 21 elements, from 107 to 170 cm each
(height), from 30 to 50 cm each (diameter) /
variable dimensions (installation)





Abdulnasser Gharem
The Stamp (Moujaz), 2017
glass, 120 x 90 cm (diameter)



JOYCE J. SCOTT

Congratulations to Joyce J. Scott, a friend of Berengo Studio and former Glasstress artist, who was awarded the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Glass Art Society (GAS) at its annual GAS Conference at the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia.



Erwin Wurm
Mutter, 2017
glass, 39 × 11 × 18 cm

Erwin Wurm
Fat Bus, 2017
glass, 9.5 × 18 × 10 cm

Brigitte Kowanz
Vo-lumen, 2017
glass, 50 x 30 cm (diameter)

Shirazeh Houshiary
Alar, 2017
glass, 145 x 44 x 115 cm



MARIE-LOUISE EKMAN AT THE MODERNA MUSEET

17.06 ▶ 17.09.2017

The Moderna Museet in Stockholm celebrated the career of Marie-Louise Ekman with a solo show of over 350 of her works, many of which were glass and created in our furnace over the past 10 years.

JAN FABRE, GLASS AND BONE SCULPTURES 1977-2017

13.05 ▶ 26.11.2017

We were happy to collaborate with our long-time friend, Jan Fabre, who presented a retrospective of his glass works in "Glass and Bone Sculptures 1977-2017," a collateral event of the Venice Biennale at the ancient San Gregorio Abbey.



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come visit it at: www.glasstress.org

B- Social!

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Berengo Studio is on TripAdvisor
Fondazione Berengo is on Artsy

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Charles Avery

Untitled (Ninth Stand #1), 2017 / detail
glass, steel, plastic containers, fabric, brick, wood,
blood, acrylic, 165 x 108 x 79 cm

Cover:

Ai Weiwei

Up Yours, 2017 / detail
glass, 47 x 72 x 28 cm

