

BERENGO STUDIO





THIRTY YEARS OF BERENGO STUDIO, TEN YEARS OF GLASSTRESS

This year has been one of celebration for Berengo Studio and Fondazione Berengo. Thirty years ago Adriano Berengo opened the studio and began his mission to bring glass to the world of contemporary art; ten years ago he founded Glasstress, an exhibition to further his vision. This double anniversary has allowed us to pause and appreciate the progress we've made in forging a new path for contemporary art and glass.

For the past thirty years, Berengo Studio has worked with an incredible range of contemporary artists and creatives, establishing ties with a truly international art community. Since its inception as a collateral exhibition of the Venice Biennale in 2009 Glasstress has showcased brilliant works of art in glass and continued to surprise the contemporary art world with its innovative and imaginative creations.

This year we are honored to have collaborated with artists at the Venice Biennale. Works conceived and created at Berengo Studio appear in three national pavilions, a testimony to our dedication to elevate art made with glass to a new level of artistic potential.

This is just a part of what we have accomplished in our anniversary year. If you want to find out what else we achieved and the exciting plans we're working on for 2020 — Read on!

José Parlá and Adriano Berengo in Murano;
Sudarshan Shetty in Berengo Studio;
Wael Shawky and Adriano Berengo at work;
Monica Bonvicini in our casting workshop;
Marco Berengo and Dinos Chapman

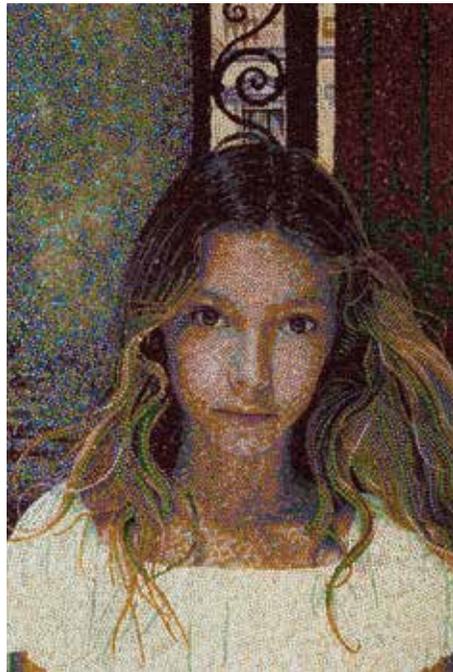
GLASSTRESS 2019

09.05 – 24.11.2019

Glasstress 2019 brought together a new lineup of leading contemporary artists from around the world to explore the endless creative possibilities of glass.

To celebrate its tenth anniversary, Glasstress returned to its historical roots on the island of Murano with an exhibition of two halves: a selection of important works from the last ten years curated by Belgian artist **Koen Vanmechelen**, and a selection of new works curated by Brazilian artist **Vik Muniz**.

The show flourished in our evocative renovated Fondazione Berengo Art Space, swapping the ornate interiors of Palazzo Cavalli-Franchetti for the urban archeological charm of an abandoned glass furnace. New artworks by artists such as Rose Wylie, Prune Nourry, Saint Clair Cemin, Francisco Toledo, and José Parlá were exhibited alongside a host of returning favourites including Ai Weiwei, Thomas Schütte, and Erwin Wurm.



Vik Muniz,
Mina (Murrine), 2019
Glasstress 2019,
Exhibition view
Fondazione Berengo
Art Space, Murano





Liliana Moro,
La spada nella roccia,
2019

Laure Prouvost,
The End of a Dream,
detail, 2019

Renate Bertlmann,
Discordo Ergo Sum,
detail, 2019

BERENGO AT THE BIENNALE

11.05 – 24.11.2019

Berengo Studio made history this year as the first glass studio to work with multiple national pavilions at the **Venice Biennale**.

For Liliana Moro we created a glass sword set in stone for the **Italian Pavilion**, inspired by the ancient stories of King Arthur.

In the **French Pavilion**, rather than working with existing stories, we collaborated with Laure Prouvost to create new ones. Our glass octopus, fish, and portable fountains bolstered her vision of an immersive underwater world: the critically acclaimed “Deep See Blue Surrounding You”.

Renate Bertlmann also made history this year as the first woman to represent **Austria** in the Biennale. Together we created a staggering 312 red glass roses, arranged in a grid and provocatively pierced by violent metal stems: a sight to behold.

Berengo Studio has always strived to bring art in glass to a wider audience in the world of contemporary art. To exhibit our creations at the Venice Biennale – an international stage – shows how our vision has become a reality.



A NEW SPACE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

05.2019 – 05.2021

In May, Fondazione Berengo had the pleasure of hosting the launch of Belgian artist and curator Koen Vanmechelen's project to establish a Human Rights Pavilion for the Venice Biennale 2021. This is a joint project with the Global Campus of Human Rights, Fondazione Berengo, and the MOUTH Foundation. The inauguration saw the presentation of a series of glass sculptures called "Collective Memory".

The project is an evolving campaign with the goal to present a case for a Pavilion of Human Rights as an official part of the next Venice Biennale. It's an important enterprise that we passionately support.

Koen Vanmechelen,
Collective Memory, 2019





RADICAL

8.03 – 13.04.2019 / 20.09 – 02.11.2019
06.12.2019 – 18.01.2020

“Radical”, Fondazione Berengo’s collaborative project with the artistic duo Penzo+Fiore, went from strength to strength in 2019. The project, which began last year, continued with a number of exhibitions at the Palazzo Cavalli-Franchetti.

First, in March, Marcella Vanzo presented “To wake up the living, to wake up the dead”, a piece that focused on the Redipuglia War Memorial and the 10,000 lives lost in the trenches during WW1, curated by Matteo Bergamini. September saw “The Preservation of Freedom”, a dialogue between the work of Loredana Longo and Elena El Asmar curated by Pietro Gaglianò. The final instalment of the exhibition cycle is curated by Lorenzo Balbi and presents the first solo show of Giovanna Repetto “Atmosfera”.



Loredana Longo, Pietro Gaglianò, and Elena El Asmar in Palazzo Cavalli-Franchetti

Giovanna Repetto,
Atmosfera n.1 (Cristiano, Francesco, Sandro, Marika, Roberto, Elvio, Andrea, Raffaella),
2019 - video still



THOMAS SCHÜTTE HEADS ABROAD

Paris 15.03 – 16.06.2019

Bregenz 13.07 – 06.10.2019

In March our dear friend German artist Thomas Schütte had a solo show at the **Monnaie de Paris**, followed in July by another spectacular exhibition at the **Kunsthaus Bregenz** Institute for Contemporary Art. We first invited Schütte to work in glass in our studio back in 2011 and we were thrilled to learn that a variety of the **Glasköpfe** (Glass Heads) he made with us in 2013 were featured in both exhibitions. In Bregenz many were presented on opaque black columns, a format which enhanced the fantastic colours which Schütte chose for these moving glass portraits.



Thomas Schütte,
Glaskopf C, Nr. 4, 2013
in Kunsthaus Bregenz

Thomas Schütte,
You and Me, detail, 2019

TONY CRAGG IN BOBOLI GARDENS

05.05 – 27.10.2019

Long-standing Berengo collaborator and renowned British artist Tony Cragg presented sixteen monumental sculptures in the **Uffizi's Boboli Gardens**. The al fresco solo show "Tony Cragg in Boboli Gardens" was the artist's first at a major Italian museum, providing a fantastic survey of the last twenty years. Complex shapes, surprising settings, and unexpected shades ensured a spectacular visual journey.

To celebrate the opening, we hosted a dinner with Cristian Contini Project Events in a magnificent glass conservatory: truly an event to remember.



Tony Cragg,
Points of View, 2018
Tony Cragg in Boboli Gardens opening dinner

BERENGO GLASS AT “NEW GLASS NOW”

12.05.2019 – 05.01.2020

Several artworks developed in Berengo Studio were selected to be exhibited in “New Glass Now”, the global survey of contemporary glass held by the famous **Corning Museum of Glass** in New York. Thousands of submissions were curated by an expert panel to produce the exhibition, which features works from more than twenty-five countries, all made within the last three years.

It’s a privilege to be chosen for this show and we couldn’t be happier that works created in our studio by Italian artist Monica Bonvicini, Austrian artist Erwin Wurm, and Saudi Arabian artist Abdunasser Gharem were selected along with a work by American artist Dustin Yellin, a contributor to Glasstress 2017 and 2019.



New Glass Now,
Exhibition view with
Abdunasser Gharem,
The Stamp (Moujaz),
2017



JAUME PLENSA: FROM THE NETHERLANDS TO RUSSIA

World-renowned sculptor, Glasstress participant, and Berengo collaborator Jaume Plensa is best known for large-scale public sculptures. Although his works are exhibited all over the world, they have rarely been exhibited in the Netherlands. This year from June to September the museum **Beelden aan Zee** changed that by exhibiting the Spanish artist to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Plensa described the exhibition as a “beautiful reencounter” as the founders of the museum were some of his first supporters.

Fondazione Berengo was also excited to organise the exhibition of Plensa’s “Carlota”, at the **State Hermitage Museum** in Russia. Next year we’ll be working with the impressive institution again for Glasstress 2020, as the museum has offered to host our next iteration of this fantastic event. We can’t wait to join forces with this historic organisation once again to promote the work of our artistic partners.



Jaume Plensa,
Silence, 2019

Jaume Plensa,
Carlota, 2017 at the State
Hermitage Museum



A UNIQUE COLLABORATION WITH FONDAZIONE MASI

Salish Coast artist Kelly Cannell was sponsored by the Fondazione Masi to make a unique artwork in our Murano studio this year. For Cannell the experience solidified her love of creating art with glass: “the technique of glass blowing can be different from person to person, and in the course of working it, the glass often takes on a form that’s very personal. Which all contributes to my passion for this type of art.” Her finished piece, now on display in the gallery, is a two-headed serpent inspired by a Musqueam Legend.

NANCY BURSON EXPERIMENTS IN ITALY

13.09 – 23.09.2019

This autumn an exciting new partnership between Berengo Studio and American artist Nancy Burson debuted at **Firenze Suona Contemporanea**. The sculpture “DNA HAS NO COLOR” created in large transparent glass letters continued Burson’s theme of proving the inexcusable nature of racism. Her famous “Human Race Machine” commissioned in 2000 by Zaha Hadid for the London millennium dome was just the start of Burson’s exploration into shattering notions of difference. For this new project she took her thesis further by interrogating the building blocks of life itself: DNA.



Kelly Cannell and Adriano Berengo at work in Berengo Studio

Nancy Burson,
DNA HAS NO COLOR,
2019

WAE SHAWKY RETURNS TO NEW YORK

13.09 – 16.10.2019

For **MoMA PS1** in 2015 Wael Shawky exhibited 200 glass marionettes created in Berengo Studio for his “Cabaret Crusades”, heralded by the Guardian as one of the best works of art in the 21st century. In 2019 he finally returned to New York with a solo show at **Lisson’s Chelsea gallery**. Shawky constructed an immersive sculptural environment titled: “The Gulf Project Camp” which featured intricate bas relief sculptures produced in our Murano studio. Once again, this Egyptian artist challenged us to look beyond traditional glassmaking techniques and once again we met that challenge with extraordinary results.



Wael Shawky,
Cabaret Crusades:
The Secrets of Karbala,
detail, 2014

Wael Shawky,
Cabaret Crusade:
The battle of Hattin,
1187, after Jean
Colombe for Mamerot's
manuscript “Les
passages d'Outremer”,
approximately 1474,
detail, 2019





ART AT ST. REGIS

Following the intuition of Antonello de Medici, the Area Manager of several important hotels in Venice, a very special collaboration was born between Berengo Studio and the St. Regis Hotel, set in the historic building of the old Europa Regina hotel.

Selected works from Glasstress are shown throughout the renovated hotel's public spaces, among them, Karen LaMonte's stunning "Reclining Nocturne", a spectral figure made from swathes of glass fabric. Tony Cragg's captivating "Bridge" of ice-like cubes lounges in the Art Bar along with a "Fat Bus" by Erwin Wurm. Jaume Plensa's mysterious glass heads hold pride of place in the reception area and his mesmerising triptych of heads sit on library shelves, while Marta Klonowska's glass fish looks as if it has leapt straight from the Grand Canal. Antonio Riello filled the hotel's library with a unique commission in which he selected works written by famous guests (such as Freud and Henry James) to form a new series of his signature project "Ashes to Ashes" where he makes exquisite glass urns for the ashes of burned books.

It's an honour to bring our art to the five star St. Regis and a dynamic new audience.

Jaume Plensa,
Duna, 2018 in Hotel
St. Regis, Venice

Karen LaMonte,
Reclining Nocturne, 2018
in Hotel St. Regis, Venice

A GOLDEN LION AT WORK

In October the visionary Jimmie Durham and his wife, the artist Maria Thereza Alves, came to visit us in Murano to begin new work. This year Durham was awarded the Golden Lion for lifetime achievement at the Venice Biennale. Ralph Rugoff, curator of this year's Biennale, noted how "for more than fifty years, Durham has continued to find new, ingenious, and cogent ways to address the political and social forces that have shaped the world we live in." We are sure this creative couple will continue to find new ways to surprise us.

TRANSFORMING TRADITIONAL GLASSWARE

This October Berengo Studio announced a unique collaboration with Milan design studio Analogia Project titled "Metamorphosis". For this exclusive partnership the studio worked with Italian artist Andrea Mancuso to create a very special series of glasses for Maison Perrier-Jouët to debut at **Design Art Tokyo** 2019. Each glass was designed to express a different facet of the identity belonging to the classical French Champagne House, which was founded in Épernay in 1811. An exhibition of the full set of glasses was shown at **Galerie Perrotin** in Tokyo.

SEAN SCULLY

Sean Scully made a splash at this year's Venice Biennale with his transformation of Saint Giorgio Maggiore. One of the few artists nominated twice for the prestigious Turner Prize his work can be found in collections around the world. We've just started a new enterprise with the daring Irish-born American-based painter. Watch this space.

Jimmie Durham working
in Berengo Studio

Andrea Mancuso at work





ROBERT WILSON: A WELCOME RETURN

Robert Wilson is a true Renaissance man. An artistic force, he has pioneered innovative ideas in mediums of all kinds and worked with everyone from Marina Abramović to Lady Gaga.

We were excited to host Wilson when he came to visit his special project at Glasstress 2019 with curator Jean Blanchaert called "Constellation". The work was inspired by the theme of domes and plays with light and transparency to magical effect.

A recipient of Venice's prestigious Golden Lion Award for Sculpture we are delighted to announce that we have begun plans for another creative project with this outstanding American artist. We can't wait to show you what's next in store.



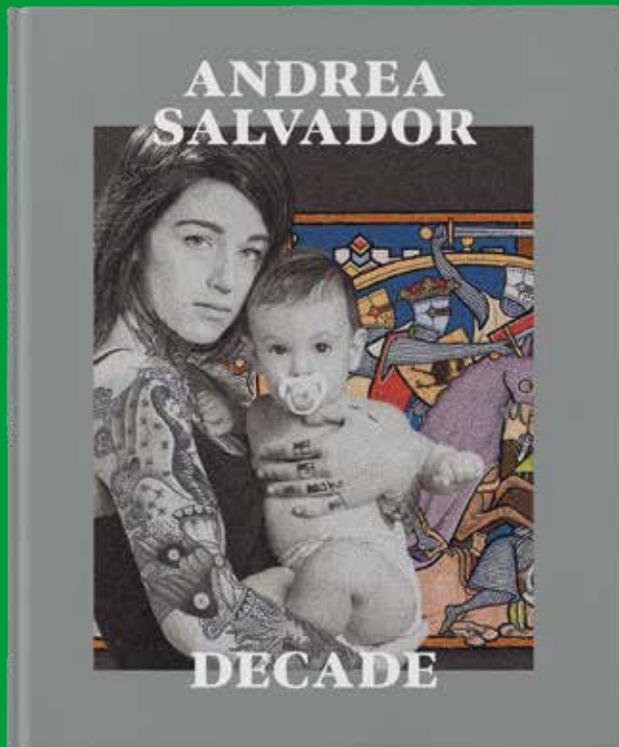
Robert Wilson,
Constellation, detail,
2019

**Robert Wilson, Adriano
Berengo and Jean
Blanchaert** in Murano

OUR NEW PUBLICATIONS

This year we published a catalogue of collected works by the Italian artist Andrea Salvador, focusing on his hyper-realistic glass mosaics with an introduction from Adriano Berengo. Our Studio has created with Salvador for over ten years, and his work has been featured in several Glasstress exhibitions, including this year's anniversary edition.

We are also excited to announce a special edition of the Glasstress catalogue for 2019 which celebrates both ten years of Glasstress and thirty years of Berengo Studio. The publication will feature original essays from experts such as William Warmus a past curator of the Corning Museum of Art and Don Bacigalupi who has been dubbed by Worth Magazine "America's most innovative Museum Director".



Andrea Salvador - Decade
Catalogue Cover (design
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Glasstress 2019 Catalogue
Cover (design Tomomot)

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**BERENGO NEWSLETTER
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Jaume Plensa, *Carlota*, 2017
at the State Hermitage Museum



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