

PRESS RELEASE

Robert Wilson in Glass

10 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2017

Organized by

fondazioneberengo

Curated by Jean Blanchaert, Noah Khoshbin

Fondazione Berengo | Palazzo Franchetti | San Marco 2847, Venice



Coinciding with the first The Venice Glass Week, Fondazione Berengo is proud and delighted to present *Robert Wilson in Glass*, an exhibition of glass artworks by the renowned stage director, designer and visual artist, curated by Jean Blanchaert and Noah Khoshbin.

For the first time in Italy, Wilson's glass artworks will arrive in Venice, overlooking Murano, the Island of Glass that inspired these pieces. In fact, it was his encounter with the glass maestro Lino Tagliapietra that sparked Wilson's passion for glass. At the beginning of the 90s, Lino Tagliapietra was often in Marseille, at CIRVA (Centre International de Recherche sur le Verre et les Arts Plastiques), and that was the place where Wilson started producing glass, following every step of the production process, from the shaping of molten matter to the final polishing. On view during the inaugural The Venice Glass Week, *Robert Wilson in Glass* includes a selection of his works, created from 1994 to 2005 at CIRVA.

Bowls, cylinders and domes, as well as inverted pyramids, lustrous and translucent, as well as dark and opaque, Wilson describes his experience with glass as a constant contradiction, a concept and a feeling that he has always felt with this material. Wilson says "I like ceramics but I much prefer glass because of its heaviness and lightness". His glass pieces are the result of a subtle alliance of these contrasts.

From the theatrical stage to video projects, in every aspect of Robert Wilson's *oeuvre* we can see a dreamlike environment of great visual and emotional impact derived from a very specific field: geometry. Glass is no exception. Considered emotionless by many, Robert Wilson has always drawn inspiration from geometry. In his glass practice, curved lines express specific moments from Wilson's life, made even more recognizable by the colours used. "They have memory", says Wilson. The morning fog and condensation captured in the satin surfaces, the reflection of water, highlighted by flashes of metal, now occupy the beautiful spaces of Palazzo Franchetti, the stunning palace on the Grand Canal that is the official home of Fondazione Berengo.

FONDAZIONE BERENGO

Fondazione Berengo was founded by Adriano Berengo in 2014 as a cultural institution to consolidate and strengthen his mission of marrying the Muranese glass-making tradition with contemporary art. The foundation seeks to achieve this goal through educational initiatives and an interdisciplinary programme of exhibitions and special projects in collaboration with internationally acclaimed artists, designers, and architects.

Adriano Berengo is also the mind and the heart behind the glass factory Berengo Studio 1989 and Glasstress, the exhibition that, since 2009, elevates glass to an unprecedented level by displaying glass artworks by the most important contemporary artists at Palazzo Franchetti. GLASSTRESS 2017, open until November 26th, features 38 artists among whom we can find Ai Weiwei, Vik Muniz, Tony Cragg, Jan Fabre and Abdunasser Gharem.

THE VENICE GLASS WEEK

Robert Wilson in Glass is a unique exhibition in the context of The Venice Glass Week (10 - 17 September 2017). This event is the city's first international festival dedicated to the art of glass, with a particular focus on that of Murano. The festival will feature over 140 events including exhibitions, conferences, open furnaces and more, involving many of the major institutions in Venice, with the aim of revitalizing and sustaining one of the city's most important artistic and creative activities.

ABOUT ROBERT WILSON

Robert "Bob" Wilson was born in 1941 in Waco, Texas. Stage director, designer and visual artist with a background in business administration and architecture, Wilson has been acclaimed as "the world's foremost avant-garde 'theater artist'." With a career spanning almost five decades,

he is known internationally for pushing the boundaries of every discipline he works in, which includes choreography, painting, sculpture, video art and sound design. He has collaborated with artists, writers, musicians and performers like Philip Glass, Marina Abramović, Willem Dafoe and Lady Gaga. Wilson has directed and designed operas for Teatro La Scala, Milan; the Metropolitan Opera, New York; and the Moscow Bolshoi, among many others. His visual works can be found in the permanent collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA, the Whitney Museum of American Art, all New York; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Hamburger Bahnhof Museum, Berlin; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and the Vitra Design Museum, to mention only the most important. Among his numerous awards, he was awarded the prestigious Golden Lion Award for Sculpture at the 45th Venice Biennale in 1993.

INFORMATION

10 - 17 September, 2017
Fondazione Berengo | Palazzo Franchetti
San Marco 2847, Venice
Daily 10:00am - 6:30pm
Ticket: 5€ / Free entry with GLASSTRESS 2017 ticket

www.fondazioneberengo.org
www.theveniceglassweek.com

EVENTS

THE VENICE GLASS WEEK PRESS CONFERENCE
7 September, 2017
Ca' Farsetti, S. Marco, 4136
12:00pm

PRESS INFORMATION

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THANKS TO



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