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## GLASS ARTIST MASSIMO MICHELUZZI TO SHOW NEW "ARCHITECTONIC GLASS" COLLECTION AT WILLER



Exhibition: Willer, 12-14 Holland Street, Kensington, London W8 4LT

Willer is delighted to announce that renowned Venetian glass artist Massimo Micheluzzi, who is represented in many of the world's leading museums, will present an exhibition of new work at the Willer gallery in London from 20 June until 14 September 2018.

Micheluzzi's exquisite work is much sought-after for its beauty, innovative use of colour, and his masterful and inventive interpretation of traditional Venetian glass-making techniques.

The new collection includes a series of monolithic, monochrome glass sculptures, referencing the massed volumes of mid-20th century to contemporary architecture. A new departure for Micheluzzi which has involved learning, exploring, and developing new techniques. Each piece has a clearly defined, robust structure, which contrasts with the fragility of the material itself. The materiality of the clear glass pieces is reminiscent of cool blocks of ice. The black and near-black are suggestive of volcanic rock. The forms themselves are architectural, built up of structural elements. The surface of some has been highly polished, of others less so, creating an unusual rough texture which significantly alters the perceived colour.

Also on show will be Micheluzzi's first new lighting pieces for many years. A new chandelier and monumental wall and table pieces. Again, using glass techniques he has not previously explored in this part of his work.

Micheluzzi says of this new architectonic collection:

"The source of inspiration for this whole project is the architecture of the second half of the last century through to the present day. For me, the objects are like small architectural maquettes reflecting the vastness of modern and contemporary architecture.

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I was most influenced by Carlo Scarpa and his outstanding built legacy in and around Venice. Many details of his designs have influenced this work. In addition, the buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier at the beginning of the era, and most recently the work of Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa have all played their part in directing me toward these forms. The challenge has been to realise this particular vision in glass."

And of the material itself:

"Glass is hard, inflexible and incorruptible by nature, mysterious in its essence – an obstinate material to work. If you mishandle glass or work it without due care and attention, it reveals its hidden fragile nature and can cheat you by self-destructing. But if you truly love glass, and really try to understand its needs, it will reveal its infinite creative possibility a bit at a time, rendering an extraordinary depth of colour and lucid surfaces. My mission is to elicit more confidence from the material, hoping that slowly it will reveal its secrets to me."

Micheluzzi's work can be seen in permanent collections at many of the world's leading museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, The Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Fondazione di Venezia, Venice.

"It is always a delight to see Massimo's latest work. The ingenuity he brings to exploring the possibilities inherent in glass, the defining material of his beloved native Venice, is unique. The pieces never disappoint, and always gracefully connect the history of the art of glassmaking, and in this case the history of the art of architecture, with the sensibility of the present. They are always things of beauty, to be admired, enjoyed, and touched. These new pieces, while a radical departure in form, nonetheless very much continue in that tradition."

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Massimo Micheluzzi was born in Venice in 1957. He studied art history at Ca' Foscari, the University of Venice. He was introduced to the world of glass by the Venini family and in 1993 he began collaborating with Laura de Santillana, granddaughter of Polo Venini. Within a few years he was producing work of his own and in 1998 he had his first exhibition in Milan. Since then, he has become a familiar name within the world of art glass and has exhibited in cities all over the world including Paris, New York, London, Rotterdam, and Kanazawa, Japan.

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