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MASSIMO MICHELUZZI : MOSAICO

The New Glass Vessels by Massimo Micheluzzi at Willer

22 June – 30 July 2016



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

Renowned Venetian glass artist Massimo Micheluzzi, who is represented in many of the world's leading museums, will present an exhibition of new work, "Micheluzzi: Mosaico", at the Willer gallery in London from 22 June until 30 July.

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 past eighteen months has been an exceptionally creative period for the artist, during which he has been inspired by the architecture of his native Venice. The 25 exhibition pieces take inspiration from the spectacular mosaics and terrazzo floors which are a feature of the city's palazzos and churches.

Micheluzzi's distinctive style creates a contemporary aesthetic while employing classic centuries-old murrina techniques. He uniquely maintains an unusual amount of control over the making processes. The murrina panels are meticulously composed and fused in his studio. The results are subtle, sophisticated pieces of solid, beautifully proportioned forms, alive with the dense opaque jewel-like colour, pattern, fluidity, and effortless elegance of his native Venice.

Micheluzzi says of this new collection:

"Glass is a complex and surprising material. There's a form of alchemy involved in working with this material and countless secrets to be discovered. My work recalls the atmosphere of Venice, the lagoon, the silvery waterways and the cloudy skies. I use glass to convey a feeling of motion."

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."

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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. With the most recent acquisition by the Musée Des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, his considerable reputation continues to be recognised and enhanced. The comprehensive list below of past exhibitions and museum collections sets out the history of his achievements.

An important catalogue of Micheluzzi's recent work will be published to coincide with the exhibition. Incorporating images of his most recent work, including those at the Willer show, it contains his highly revealing thoughts on his chosen material, as well as a sprinkling of witty illustrations he has created especially for the catalogue by 'placing' his pieces in classic paintings. A limited edition of the catalogue will be co-published with Willer.



Also illustrated, and included in the exhibition, are pieces that have been created using other traditional Venetian glass techniques, including the artist's monochrome and cold carved work and large-scale sommerso pieces. Examples of these are always displayed at Willer, and a special selection will be on show at the additional gallery space next door, making the exhibition a uniquely comprehensive survey of this important artist's work.

"I feel deeply honoured that Massimo has chosen the Willer gallery to show this important body of work, which I know will be of great interest to both glass experts and novices, and those who take great pleasure in the beautiful aesthetic and sensibility he always coaxes from this material."
Rebecca Willer

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.

For more information and prices: Email: info@willer.co.uk Tel: +44 (0)20 7937 3518

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Notes to Editors:

Museums and Permanent Collections:

Musée Des Arts Décoratifs, Paris (France)
The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia (U. S. A.)
The Corning Museum of Glass, New York (U. S. A.)
Ernsting Stiftung Alter Hof Herding, Coesfeld (Germany)
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (Holland)
WheatonArts Museum Millville, N.J. (U. S. A.)
Musée - Atelier du Verre, Sars-Poteries (France)
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas (U. S. A.)
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (U. S. A.)
Museum of Arts and Design, New York (U. S. A.)
Villa Necchi Campiglio, Milan (Italy)
Palazzetto Bru Zane, Venice (Italy)

Selected one-person and group exhibitions since 2004:

2014 "Arte del Vetro oggi in Italia" Villa Necchi Campiglio, Milan
2014 "Kunst in Glas", Sanske Galerie, Zurigo
2013 "Le temps gris", Brutto Gusto_fine arts, Berlin
2012 "Murano – Fragile", Musée Maillol, Paris (Catalogo)
2012 "Vetro Murrino da Altino a Murano" Museo del Vetro, Murano. Catalogue
2011 "The contemporary Venetian glass", Hallwylska Museet, Stockholm. Catalogue
2009 "COOL glassworks" Brutto Gusto" Gallery, Berlin
2008 "Il vetro è duro" (solo) Catalogue. Pron Art & Design, Torino Italy
2007 "Vetro d' Artista" Madonna di Campiglio a cura di Rosa Barovier Mentasti
2007 "SOFA" Chicago, Galerie Sanske, Zurich
2007 "Collect" at Victoria and Albert Museum, Galleria Blanchaert
2006 Massimo Micheluzzi " New Work " (solo), William Traver Gallery, Seattle
2006 Translations and Transformations: 1950-2006, Canergie Museum, Pittsburgh
2005 Massimo Micheluzzi - New Glass Vessel (solo) Barry Friedman Gallery, NY
2005 Aldeburgh Festival 2005, Strand Gallery, Aldeburgh
2005 Massimo Micheluzzi (solo), Sanske Gallery, Zürich
2005 Massimo Micheluzzi (solo), William Traver Gallery, Tacoma
2005 Craft Alliance: Tradition Transformed: Murrini Glass, St. Louis
2005 International Glass Exhibition Laura Russo Gallery, Portland
2004 "Vetri nel mondo Oggi" Rosa Barovier Mentasti, Palazzo Franchetti, Venezia
2004 Aldeburgh Festival 2004, Strand Gallery, Aldeburgh
2004 SOFA, Barry Friedman Gallery , New York
2004 Le Pavillon de Printemps, Paris with Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris
2004 Le Pavillon de Printemps, with Barry Friedman
2004 Massimo Micheluzzi (solo), Brutto Gusto Gallery , Rotterdam
2004 Massimo Micheluzzi (solo), William Traver Gallery, Seattle