

State-of-the-ART glass festival woves in Italy



Massimo Pistori

Photo's taken at various exhibits and installations during The Italian Glass Weeks 2022, in Venice and Milan.

In the UN International Year of Glass, the annual Vision Milan Glass Week and The Venice Glass Week united to present The Italian Glass Weeks – Italy's first festival dedicated to industrial and artistic glass in all its forms and processes, which took place in Milan from 10-18 September and in Venice from 17-25 September 2022. Herewith some photos and highlights from the various events.

In September 2022 more than 100 000 visitors participated in 267 events organised as part of the Venetian week of The Italian Glass Weeks, an important festival dedicated to industrial and artistic glass which was born from the temporary fusion of Vision Milan Glass Week and The Venice Glass Week, staged specifically for the 2022 United Nations International Year of Glass.

The festival was held in Milan from 10 to 18 September and in Venice from 17 to 25 September. This special combined edition of the festivals saw visitor numbers in Venice return to pre-Covid levels.

The numbers

The Venetian week of The Italian Glass Weeks took place around Venice, Murano and Mestre, with 267 events and initiatives organised in 148 venues by 174 participants, including foundations, art galleries, museums, cultural institutions, universities, glass factories, furnaces, companies, trade associations, artists and private Italian and foreign collectors.

Specifically, the Venetian week featured more than 130 exhibitions and installations, 42 inaugurations and special events, 27 guided tours, 14 demonstrations and workshops, 24 conferences and seminars, 11 leisure activities and 8 film screenings and concerts, as well as 10 online events designed especially for international audiences.

The two key centres of the Venetian week were the HUBs, each with their own focus. The Italian Glass Weeks – Venice HUB hosted works by 21 Italian and international artists and designers, while The Italian Glass Weeks – Venice HUB Under35 hosted installations by 20 young Italian and international artists and designers.

Another highlight of this year's edition was the programme of online events titled "Conversations on Glass" by Apice: six panel discussions covering various topics relating to the world of glass. Conducted in English in order to involve the international public, the programme was created in collaboration with Apice, a leading company specialising in the transportation and handling of works of art and glass.



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Awards

On 24 September 2022, as one of the most significant events of the Venetian week of the festival, an Award Ceremony took place at Palazzo Franchetti, home of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, during which three important prizes were awarded. The prestigious Glass in Venice Prize, jointly organised by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, was won by the artists Marcela Cernadas and Michele Burato and by the artisan Roberto Donà for the Carlo Donà company. The second edition of the Premio Fondazione di Venezia was awarded to the Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia and the artist Ritsue Mishima for the exhibition "Ritsue Mishima – Glass Works".

Finally, the young artist Katerina Krotenko, whose installation "Shaped by Fire" was exhibited within The Italian Glass Weeks – Venice HUB Under35, won the third edition of the Autonoma Residency Prize, which will enable her to undertake an emerging artist's residency at Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle (USA) in 2023.

A bold vision

"The Italian Glass Weeks was the largest event in Italy, and most probably in Europe, dedicated to glass in 2022: two weeks of initiatives designed for all kinds of audiences. Culture and technology were the keywords that ran throughout the programme: not as two separate dimensions, but deeply and inextricably linked, one

functional to the development of the other, according to the peculiar characteristics that distinguish them, making them unique," said Dino Necca, President of the VITRUM exhibition which also organised the Italian Glass Weeks.

"With The Italian Glass Weeks we intended to give renewed strength to the positioning of the Italian glass supply chain at an international level, underlining how the Italian proposal is unique and original. Only in Italy, in fact, does glass draw directly on origins that have created and developed a unique history and culture; culture and history that have never stopped, in a continuous flow that has brought them to us via centuries of tradition."

"We are particularly satisfied with this new project," said the Organising Committee of The Venice Glass Week in a media statement, "which could help to provide great momentum for the artistic glass sector, both this year and in the future. The five-year experience of The Venice Glass Week has paved the way for the creation of something bigger and more ambitious, thanks to the great work of all those who have always believed in the project.

"For the island of Murano, which represents the homeland of international artistic glass, and which unfortunately is suffering considerably in this economically difficult period, the new festival was a moment of rebirth, with great international visibility."

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A history in glass

For the international public, the cities of Venice and Milan are synonymous with Italian tradition and style. Venice, thanks to the 1 000-year-old tradition of glassmaking that has been handed down from generation to generation on the island of Murano, is the city of artistic glass par excellence, as well as a capital of culture and one of the world's most popular tourist destinations.

In Venice, The Venice Glass Week festival has been organised since 2017, taking place across the city centre as well as Murano, surrounding islands and the mainland. Each year the festival has featured over 250 events, involving furnaces and glass companies as well as museums, public and private foundations, universities, art galleries, hotels, restaurants, shops and more.

Milan, which hosted the first edition of Vision Milan Glass Week, is a contemporary city which continues to represent Italy's technological progress, and which is the true

capital of the country's economy, design industry and production sector. The city is home to GIMAV, the glass industry trade association belonging to CONFINDUSTRIA which represents the manufacturers and suppliers of machines, accessories, equipment and special products for glass processing. It is also where, for over forty years, glass industrialists have organised VITRUM, the international exhibition of machinery and technologies for glass processing.

Looking ahead

Following the great success of The Italian Glass Weeks, The Venice Glass Week returns in 2023 and the Organising Committee has announced the dates of the seventh edition of The Venice Glass Week, which will be held from 9 to 17 September 2023.

Article compiled from media statements by The Italian Glass Weeks organisers. For more information visit www.theitalianglassweeks.com.

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