



## The Istituto Veneto and Glass

The sequence of events

Already in the 19th Century a great many Murano glassworks, with their capacity to innovate processing techniques, won the Industry Prizes the Istituto Veneto awarded to the leading manufacturers in the Veneto. Glass came back to the fore in 2004 when the Istituto Veneto opened its new premises in Palazzo Franchetti with the great exhibition "Vetri. Nel mondo. Oggi" (Glass in the World. Today): a vast survey of art glass from all over the world with works by contemporary artists from Murano, America, Australia, Belgium, Bohemia, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden. In 2010 for the first time the Istituto opened the new ground floor rooms of Palazzo Loredan with the exhibition "Galanterie di Vetro" (Glass Galantries). The Murano glass revival in the De Boos-Smith collection: 250 exquisite items, selected and arranged according to the different glass techniques attesting the ancient 19th Century 'working process' at Murano. In 2011 the Istituto held a solo show in Palazzo Franchetti dedicated to the great artist Lino Tagliapietra: a large selection of one-offs of the past ten years including several impressive installations. In 2012 the Istituto presented the exhibition "Miniature di vetro" (Glass Miniatures) in Palazzo Loredan. Art bonbonnières: 400 small glass articles from private collections revealing great artists' technical prowess in the art of glass. In Palazzo Franchetti from September to November 2012 the Bertil Vallien exhibition: "Nine Rooms" produced and organised by Berengo Studio displayed to the Venetian public sixty glass works crafted by the Swedish master during his career in the Swedish Kosta Boda studios.

The Istituto Veneto is one of the partners of Glasstress, presented at Palazzo Franchetti in 2009 and 2011 by Berengo Studio during the International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale. 2013 schedules the third edition of this outstanding art exhibition which explores developments in international design with sculptures and installations specially created by leading international artists and designers vying with their use of glass.

As a commentary on the various exhibitions the Istituto Veneto organised for the general public many occasions for reflection, with lectures and conversations with the artists by scholars and collectors.

In 2012 the Istituto Veneto introduced and organised Study Days on Venetian Glass to gather each year scholars of Venetian glass but also glass of the most varied traditions: an occasion for further discussion and encounters, with broad exchanges of information and experience, making this event one of the most important of its kind held on an international level.

Last, in 2012 the Glass in Venice Prize was created, awarded by the Istituto Veneto and the Musei Civici Veneziani in recognition of the glass artists and masters particularly outstanding for their work in the great Murano tradition, or else, all over the world, through different techniques and schools. The first Prize was awarded on 22 November 2012 to the master Pino Signoretto and the artist Bertil Vallien.