

LE STANZE DEL VETRO

A Project by Fondazione Giorgio Cini and Pentagram Stiftung

Venice, 10 February 2022, 2.30 pm

Live streaming on the Fondazione Giorgio Cini YouTube channel

Conference

## **Tapio Wirkkala e Toni Zuccheri** **Renown experts describe the worlds of two designers** **who deeply influenced Murano glassmaking**

Organised by the Glass Study Centre, the largest archive of 20th-century Venetian glass, the online conference will explore the work of the two designers who collaborated with the Venini furnace in the 1960s

The **Tapio Wirkkala e Toni Zuccheri** symposium, promoted by the Glass Study Centre, will be live streamed on the Fondazione Giorgio Cini YouTube channel on Thursday 10 February 2022 at 2.30 pm. Leading experts will explore in depth the many aspects of the personalities of the two designers: from their training to their versatile creative work and how far their presence contributed to innovating the art of glass, also in the broader context of the international art scene.

The conference complements and further explores the exhibitions: *Tapio Wirkkala at Venini* and *Toni Zuccheri at Venini*, curated by Marino Barovier, at LE STANZE DEL VETRO, on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, until 13 March 2022; the shows can also be seen by taking an online 3D virtual tour.

After the welcoming remarks by **Luca Massimo Barbero**, Director of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini Institute of Art History, **Carla Sonego** will open the conference and introduce the speakers, who will be divided into two sessions. In the first session **Rosa Barovier Mentasti** and **Vittorio Linfante** will focus on **Tapio Wirkkala**, while the second will be devoted to **Toni Zuccheri**, as described by **Orsola Zuccheri**, **Rosa Chiesa** and **Pino Usicco**. **Marta Pasqualini** will close the symposium by presenting her documentary *Pezzi sparsi*, realized in 2016 as a tribute to the great Venetian master Zuccheri, currently showing in the video room of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.

A leading exponent of the 'Finnish school', **Tapio Wirkkala** represented a qualitative breakthrough for Venini, especially as regards the *incalmo* technique, which he combined with *mezza filigrana* and *murrine*. **Toni Zuccheri**, on the other hand, having inherited the passion and creativity from his father Luigi, an animal painter, experimented on similar themes by immersing himself in the world of the furnace. His initial animals, especially birds, were made of polychrome glass through the bold use of refined techniques. A Scandinavian minimalist, Wirkkala was a sculptor and an industrial and graphic designer, capable of mastering diverse materials on any scale, while Zuccheri used an imaginative, multifaceted language, redolent of the vitality of nature, an inexhaustible source of inspiration as, for example, in his elaborate concept of the *Bestiary*. This is the starting point for the comparison between two styles, two ingenious spirits, each with their own cultural and technical background, capable of giving very different forms of expression to "glass matter" through their Murano experiments.

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## The Glass Study Centre

Housing over **150,000 original documents** and a **specialised library** of more than 2,000 books, the Glass Study Centre is the largest **Archive of 20th-century Venetian Glass**.

Founded in 2012 within the Fondazione Giorgio Cini Institute of Art History, the Glass Study Centre investigates and **promotes the art of Venetian glassmaking** in all its modern and contemporary forms. It thus sets out to once more give glass a prominent position on the Italian and international art scene by highlighting its potential through exhibitions, conferences, publications, and scholarships for experts and researchers interested in the history, technology and future developments of this specific medium.

The main objectives of the Centre are the **cataloguing, preservation** and **online publication** of the collections it has received, which are gradually increasing the Glass Archive, as well as the expansion of its **specialised library**.

The documentation mainly concerns the production of the best-known Venetian furnaces, such as **Aureliano Toso, Barovier Seguso e Ferro, M.V.M. Cappellin & C., Pauly & C – C.V.M, Seguso Vetri d'Arte, Società Veneziana Conterie** and **Vetriere Antonio Salviati**.

The collections include work designs by renowned glass designers, such as **Emmanuel Babled, Fulvio Bianconi, Luigi Scarpa Croce, Dino Martens, Flavio Poli, Ginny Ruffner, Carlo Scarpa, Peter Shire** and **Vinicio Vianello**. Among the acquisitions in 2020 were the archives of contemporary artists **Cristiano Bianchin, Giorgio Vigna** and **Silvano Rubino**, along with that of the great master **Pino Signoretto**. Items in the Centre's collections (books, graphic art works and photographs) can be consulted by the public and some have already been featured in publishing projects and books. Multimedia collections related to conferences, interviews with master glassmakers, art historians and artists and, last but not least, all the digital archives of the historic Venini furnace will also be available online soon.

### For further information:

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