



# 20th Century Venetian Glass

## A private Genevan collection

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA | 13 OCTOBER 2011 – 8 APRIL 2012

### PRESS RELEASE

*Geneva, October 2011* – For centuries, the isle of Murano has been renowned for the excellence and the extreme refinement of its glassware. As guarantors of traditional skills, the Venetian glassmakers have perfected and developed unique technical processes, thus perpetuating and enriching their secular tradition from generation to generation. In the 20th century, great names in the world of glass, such as Venini and Barovier, have proved themselves to be worthy heirs, aligning their art more and more closely with design and opening up with brio the way to modernity.

The impetus for this revival came in 1921 when the Milanese lawyer and businessman Venini settled in Venice. Although still hesitant in the 1920s, entry into the 20th century was more evident in the following decade. Venini was then no longer alone. Other firms, sometimes transitory, followed in his tracks. To the traditional creators were added avant-garde Scandinavian designers, such as Tyra Lundgren.

Interrupted by the war, production recommenced at the end of the 1940s. This was the beginning of a golden age with hundreds of designs being created each year. The vases were still marketed as luxury decorative objects rather than as works of art, which explains the lack of signatures and dates. Many pieces are therefore difficult to identify. Everyone copied everyone else.

Although only affecting the top end of the market, this updating of forms continued until about 1975. Other firms stood out, such as Seguso and Barbini. A certain loss of vitality then became apparent, despite the great successes of designers like Fulvio Bianconi and Dino Martens. After the crisis of inspiration came that of the financial structures towards 1985. The firms which managed to survive often re-employ traditional forms today. Innovation is in the hands of isolated artists who often rely on the art gallery circuit.

Through the presentation of forty or so vases, bowls and plates from a private collection that date from the 1920s to the 1990s, the Musée Ariana aims to retrace the revival of Venetian glass in the 20th century. Certain pieces were produced in small quantities and some in limited editions; others, obeying the law of supply and demand, were on sale over a period of several years and were produced in their thousands. This multiplicity should not however make us forget that the pieces made by glassblowers are all unique.

Stanislas Anthonioz, Exhibition Co-Curator

# 20th Century Venetian Glass

## A private Genevan collection

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA | 13 OCTOBER 2011 – 8 APRIL 2012

### EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

#### Commentated Visits

On the Sundays 16 October and 4 December 2011, 5 February 2012 at 3 pm

Free admission, subject to the number of places available

#### Thematic Visits

Guided tour of the permanent collections, on **Sundays at 3 pm**, admission free

<b>16 October</b>	Le verre vénitien / Venetian Glass
<b>6 November</b>	Le verre dans la collection du Musée Ariana / Glass in the collections of the Musée Ariana
<b>4 December</b>	Le verre vénitien / Venetian Glass
<b>15 January 2012</b>	Le verre dans la collection du Musée Ariana / Glass in the collections of the Musée Ariana
<b>5 February</b>	Le verre vénitien / Venetian Glass

#### Thursday Talks

Tour of the exhibition, followed by lunch, with Stanislas Anthonioz, co-curator of the exhibition

**Thursday 8 December at 11 am** (Admission fee, payable upon registration at least 3 working days in advance)

#### Schools

Guided tours of the collections of the Musée Ariana and of the temporary exhibition are free for classes from the Canton of Geneva. For schools outside the canton, the admission fee is 50 CHF, payable upon registration at least 15 days before the selected date.

#### Groups

Commentated visits of the permanent collections and the temporary exhibitions.

Number of places limited to 25 participants maximum.

Cost : 150 CHF per group (75 CHF for institutions serving the community, subsidised by the City of Geneva).

Payable upon registration at least 15 days before the chosen date.

#### Accompanying exhibition

**Baldwin / Guggisberg : Au-delà du verre- Beyond Glass**

Musée Ariana, basement, 13 October 2011 – 25 March 2012

**Admission fee payable except on the first Sunday of the month**

#### Reservations and registration

Visitor Services

Monday – Friday

T + 41 22 418 54 50

F + 41 22 418 54 51

adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch

[www.ville-geneve.ch/ariana](http://www.ville-geneve.ch/ariana)

# 20th Century Venetian Glass

## A private Genevan collection

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA | 13 OCTOBER 2011 – 8 APRIL 2012

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

#### **Musée Ariana**

10 Avenue de la Paix | 1202 Geneva

T +41(0)22 418 54 50

F +41(0)22 418 54 51

[ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:ariana@ville-ge.ch)

[www.ville-geneve.ch/ariana](http://www.ville-geneve.ch/ariana)

Open 10 am – 6 pm

Closed Mondays

**Admission free**

**Exhibition opening** : Wednesday 12 October 2011 from 6.30 pm, official opening at 7 pm

#### **Exhibition Organisation**

Anne-Claire Schumacher, Curator

Stanislas Anthonioz, Research Assistant

#### **Digital Catalogue**

An online catalogue raisonné can be consulted in situ or on the website

[www.ville-ge.ch/ariana/catalogue](http://www.ville-ge.ch/ariana/catalogue) from 13 October.

#### **Visitor Services**

Monday – Friday

T + 41 22 418 54 50

F + 41 22 418 54 51

[adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:adp-ariana@ville-ge.ch)

#### **Press Office**

Christine Azconegui Suter

T +41(0)22 418 54 55

F +41(0)22 418 54 51

[ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:ariana@ville-ge.ch)



**ariana**



# Verre de Venise du 20<sup>e</sup> siècle

## Une collection particulière genevoise

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENÈVE | DU 13 OCTOBRE 2011 AU 25 MARS 2012

### VISUELS POUR LA PRESSE

- 1 **Vases « Fasce sommersa »**, 1991  
Design Fulvio Bianconi pour Venini  
Verre soufflé, avec décor de bandes horizontales obtenu par immersions dans des paraisons de verre coloré  
H 28,4 et 31,3 cm  
Photo : Nathalie Sabato



- 2 **Vase « Spacchi »**, 1983  
Design Toni Zuccheri pour Barovier & Toso  
Verre soufflé blanc, noir et incolore, en couches superposées  
H 34 cm  
Photo : Nathalie Sabato



**3 Coupe, 1922**

Design Vittorio Zecchin pour Cappellin Venini  
Verre soufflé, transparent et coloré ; décor à  
la pince rapporté à chaud  
Ø 33,5 cm  
Photo : Nathalie Sabato



**4 Vase « Spuma di mare », 1938-1940**

Design Ercole Barovier pour Barovier & Toso  
Verre bullé et coloré à chaud sans fusion,  
soufflé entre deux couches de verre  
incolore ; décor rapporté à chaud  
H 31,7 cm  
Photo : Nathalie Sabato



# 20th Century Venetian Glass

## A private Genevan collection

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA | 13 OCTOBER 2011 – 8 APRIL 2012

### NOTE TO JOURNALISTS

The Press Office of the Musée Ariana is pleased to inform you that images are available for download and are royalty free for the duration of the exhibition. Requests for access can be addressed to [ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:ariana@ville-ge.ch) or by telephone on +41 (0)22 418 54 55.

Any reproduction must be accompanied by the following mentions : name of museum, author(s), title of work and name of photographer. Other indications (dimensions, techniques, date, etc.) are desirable but not compulsory. These elements can be found in the downloadable press pack on our website [www.ville-geneve.ch/ariana](http://www.ville-geneve.ch/ariana).

Upon publication, we would be grateful if you could please send a copy of your publication to the Press Office of the Musée Ariana.

With our thanks

MUSÉE ARIANA  
Press Office  
10, avenue de la Paix  
1202 Geneva  
[ariana@ville-ge.ch](mailto:ariana@ville-ge.ch)



**ariana**



musée  
suisse  
de la céramique  
et  
du verre