

MICHELA CATTAI



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Currently residing in Milan, Italian artist Michela Cattai moved to Venice in 1984, graduating in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts, under the guidance of Fabrizio Plessi. She also enrolled in a degree in Design, participating in the course "Communicating Vessels" held by Ennio Chiggio, a member of Group N in Padua, thanks to whom she began assimilating the concepts of semantics and semiotics in the field of Italian design, focusing her study on glass. In 1988, she was selected to participate in a collective exhibition at the Murano Glass Museum.

Since 1991, she has been artistic director of her namesake gallery, Galleria Michela Cattai ART+DESIGN, located in the heart of Brera, Milan. Her gallery focuses on the Italian artistic production of the late XX century, with the aim of reconstructing a meaningful dialogue between artistic and design practices. Among some of the most prominent names in the gallery are Vincenzo Agnetti, Gianni Colombo, Paolo Icaro, Gio Ponti, Ico Parisi and Franco Albini, manufacturers of Fontana Arte, Venini.

In 2017, Michela Cattai was invited to present her glass work as a solo exhibition at the Chamber of Deputies, in the Sala del Cenacolo, Rome and again in 2019 at the Italian Cultural Institute of Tokyo, Japan. She has taken part in several solo and group exhibitions (Miami/Design Basel 2017, Expo Chicago 2017/2018, The Venice Glass Week 2017/2018/2019/2020/2021/2023, Galleria Civica Bolzano 2018, Fog Design+Art San Francisco 2019, Nomad St. Moritz 2018/2019, VITREA at the Triennale di Milano in 2021, DoppiaFirma Milano Design Week 2022, Masterpiece London 2022, PAD London Art+Design 2019/2022/2023, Palazzo Contarini Scala del Bovolo Venezia 2023) enlightening the interest of various Italian and foreign museums.

Her works are currently displayed in several international spaces, from the Stiftung Museum Kunst Palast of Düsseldorf to Europeana of DDB (German Digital Library), from Murano Glass Museum to Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista in Venice, to the Italian Embassy's permanent collection of modern art in Tokyo and to the Carlo Rizzarda Gallery of Modern Art in Feltre. In 2022, she exhibited "Linfa", a series composed of the recycled waste of other artists from the historical Battaglia Foundry in Milan, as part of the collective project "DoppiaFirma" promoted by the Michelangelo Foundation, Fondazione Cologni Maestri d'Arte and Corriere della Sera Living.

In 2019 Michela Cattai took on the position of Art Director for Venini, before devoting herself completely to her work as an independent artist in 2023. Her pieces are integrated into furnishings, selected by multinational curators and decorators. Michela Cattai's glass works are unique pieces of Venetian glass, blown and worked freehand by expert glassmakers who give shape to her conceptions. Her projects pay homage to the heritage of Murano blown glass, reinterpreting it in a new light of contemporary expression whilst the Venice Lagoon and the beauty of its surrounding flora play an integral role in her inspiration.



FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

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| 2023. 10-15 October | Fair. PAD LONDON DESIGN + ART, 88 Gallery London, UK. |
| 2023. 13 September-19 November | Solo exhibition. <i>In Chiaroscuro, oltre la luce e l'ombra. Cattai e Tintoretto</i> . Promoted by The Venice Glass Week. Palazzo Contarini Scala del Bovolo, Venice, Italy. |
| 2023. 3 September-13 October | Collective exhibition. <i>Destiny in Glass. 13 artists alla vetreria Anfora</i> . Promoted by The Venice Glass Week. Spazio SPARC, Venice, Italy. |
| 2023. 9-17 September | Collective exhibition. Promoted by The Venice Glass Week HUB. Palazzo Loredan, Venice, Italy. |
| 2023. 10-26 May | Collective exhibition. Cortecce/Bark at ART + DESIGN Gallery. |
| 2023. 17-23 April | Preview Cortecce/Bark at ART + DESIGN Gallery. Salone del mobile 2023. |
| 2022. 11-16 October | Fair. Pad London Art + Design, 88 Gallery London, London, UK. |
| 2022. 30 June-6 July | Fair. Masterpiece London, 88 Gallery London, London, UK. |
| 2022. 7-12 June | Collective exhibition. Doppiafirma Milan Salone del mobile a project by Michelangelo Foundation, Fondazione Cologni Maestri d'Arte, Corriere della Sera Living. Salone del mobile 2022. |
| 2021. 13 April-13 June | Collective exhibition. VITREA. il vetro italiano contemporaneo d'autore. Triennale Milan, Italy. |
| 2020. 5-6 September | Collective exhibition. Riflessi Veneziani, The Venice Glass Week HUB, Palazzo Loredan, Venice, Italy. |
| 2019. 30 September-6 October | Fair. PAD LONDON Art + Design, Galerie Alexandre Biaggi Paris and 88 Gallery London, London, UK. |
| 2019. 7-15 September | Solo exhibition. The Venice Glass Week HUB, Reshaping the Tradition, Acqua and Contrasto for Venini, Palazzo Loredan, Venice, Italy. |
| 2019. 7-15 September | Collective exhibition. The Venice Glass Week HUB, Venini Collective Exhibition 2019, Palazzo Loredan, Venice, Italy. |
| 2019. 7-11 February | Showcase. NOMAD, Galleria Luisa Delle Piane, St. Moritz, Switzerland. |
| 2019. 17-20 January | Fair. Fog Design+Art, Casati Gallery, San Francisco, USA. |
| 2018. 1-4 November | Fair. SOFA Chicago, Casati Gallery, Chicago, USA. |
| 2018. 9-16 September | Collective exhibition. The Venice Glass Week HUB, Palazzo Querini, Venice, Italy. |
| 2018. 17-22 April | Solo exhibition. Milano Design Week, Brera Design District, at Michela Cattai Studio, Milan, Italy. |
| 2018. 8-11 February | Showcase. NOMAD, Casati Gallery, St. Moritz, Switzerland. |
| 2018. 23/01-18/02 | Collective exhibition. EUSART, Galleria Civica di Bolzano, Italy. |
| 2018. 11-14 January | Fair. Fog Design+Art, Casati Gallery, San Francisco, USA. |
| 2017. 13-17 September | Fair. Expo Chicago, Casati Gallery, Chicago, USA. |
| 2017. 10-17 September | Solo exhibition. The Venice Glass Week, Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista di Venezia, Venice, Italy. |
| 2017. 13-18 June | Fair. Miami/Design Basel, Casati Gallery, Basel, Switzerland. |
| 2017. 12-21 April | Solo exhibition. Sala del Cenacolo, Chamber of Deputies, Rome, Italy. |

ACQUISITIONS

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| 2023. | The VID Venice Innovation Design honors the main guest architect Mario Cucinella with a work from <i>Linha</i> series. |
| 2021. | Museo Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Carlo Rizzarda, Feltre, Italy. |
| 2019. | Film festival selection. "Incontri Metropolitan" screened at MDFF Milano Design Film Festival 2019, Anteo Palazzo del Cinema, Milano, Italy. |
| 2019. | Permanent collection Italian Embassy, Tokyo, Japan. |
| 2018. | Permanent collection Murano Glass Museum, Venice, Italy. |
| 2018. | Permanent collection Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista, Venice, Italy. |
| 2017. | Europeana, DDB (German Digital Library). |
| 2017. | Permanent collection Stiftung Museum KunstPalast, Düsseldorf, Germany. |

IN CHIAROSCURO, OLTRE LA LUCE E L'OMBRA. CATTAI E TINTORETTO, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2023 - 19TH NOVEMBER 2023.



The exhibition *In Chiaroscuro, oltre la luce e l'ombra. Cattai e Tintoretto*, Palazzo Contarini Scala del Bovolo, Venice, Italy.

THE VENICE GLASS WEEK 2023, 9TH – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023.



Botanica Adriatica exhibited at The Venice Glass Week HUB, Palazzo Loredan, Venice, Italy.

BOTANICA ADRIATICA SERIES 2023



Botanica Adriatica series is conceived in all unique pieces, in the colour *Oro Antico*.
Murano hand-blown glass, satin and polished.

NATURALIA SERIES 2023



Naturalia series is conceived of all unique pieces, in the following colours: *ambra* and *dark burgundy*.
Murano hand-blown glass, satin and polished with the historical grinding practice.

CORTECCE SERIES 2023

Cortecce series is conceived of eight unique pieces, in the following colours: "ambra", "gagia", "pagliesco", "topazio", "verde", "verde muschio". Murano hand-blown glass with the rods technique, finish touch with the historical graving practices of *inciso* and *battuto*.

CORTECCE SERIES 2023



Hand-blown glass sculpture, of triangular irregular shape.
Plate made of rods, glass powder, blowing, *inciso* engraving.

LINFA SERIES
DOPPIAFIRMA DOUBLE SIGNATURE BY MICHELANGELO FOUNDATION
6TH – 12TH JUNE 2022, MILAN DESIGN WEEK

PAD LONDON ART+DESIGN, BERKELEY SQUARE W1 LONDON, UK
11TH – 16TH OCTOBER 2022



EDITIONS FOR VENINI, ACQUA SERIES 2019



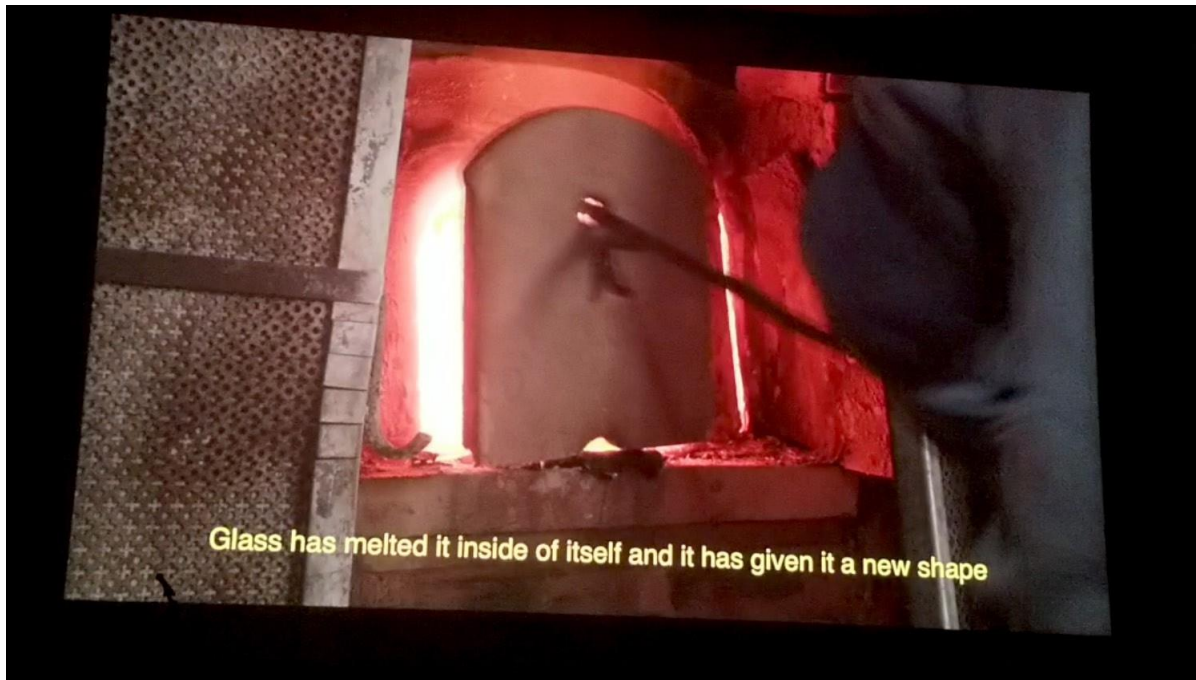
EDITIONS FOR VENINI, CONTRASTO SERIES 2019



EDITIONS FOR VENINI, RIFLESSI SERIES 2019



**ANTEO PALAZZO DEL CINEMA, MILAN
25TH OCTOBER 2019**



INCONTRI METROPOLITANI AT MDFF 2019

Incontri Metropolitani, a film about the research and practice on Linfa series, presented as part of the film selection at MDFF - Milano Design Film Festival at Anteo Palazzo del Cinema in October 2019.

TEATRINO DI PALAZZO GRASSI, VENICE
12TH SEPTEMBER 2019



INCONTRI METROPOLITANI FOR AUTONOMA BUILD UP AND CASA DELLE PAROLE

Incontri Metropolitani premiered at Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi during the screening event produced by Autonoma Build Up and Casa delle Parole, in September on the occasion of the international glass festival *The Venice Glass Week 2019*.

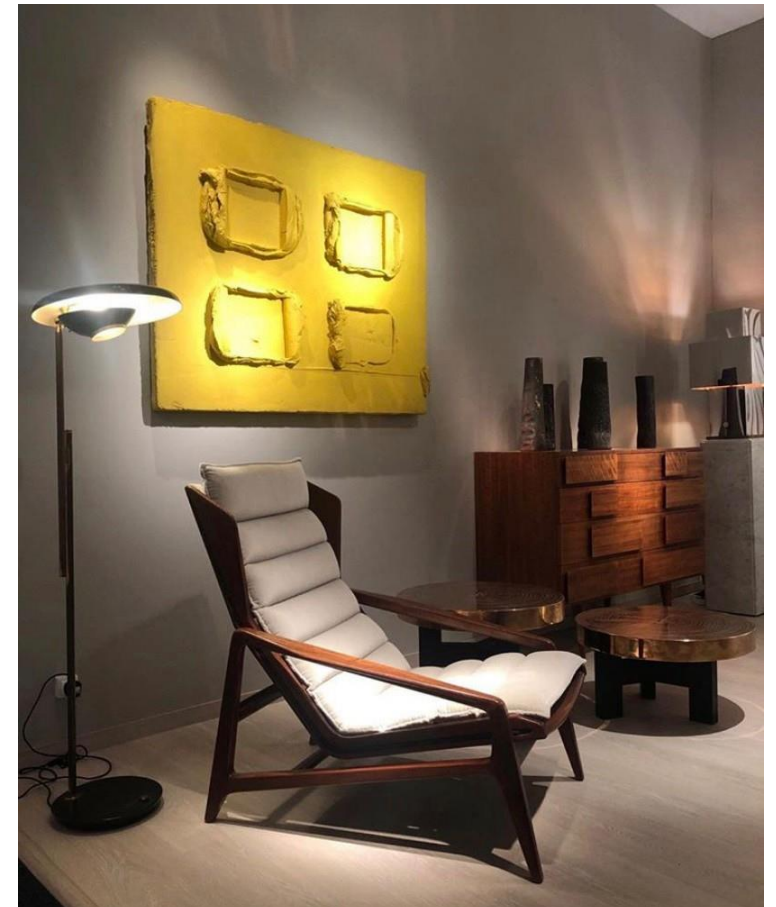
**PAD LONDON ART+DESIGN BERKELEY SQUARE W1 LONDON, UK
30TH SEPTEMBER – 6TH OCTOBER 2019**



CHIAROSCURO THREE UNIQUE PIECES 2018

Presented by Galerie Alexandre Biaggi from Paris, France.

PAD LONDON ART+DESIGN BERKELEY SQUARE W1 LONDON, UK
30TH SEPTEMBER – 6TH OCTOBER 2019



LINFA SERIES UNIQUE PIECES 2019

Presented by 88 Gallery from London, UK.

THE VENICE GLASS WEEK HUB, VENICE
5TH – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Palazzo Loredan, Venetian Institute of Science, Arts and Letters



RIFLESSI LIMITED EDITION 2019

Presented by Venini at Venini Collective 2019.

THE VENICE GLASS WEEK HUB, VENICE
5TH – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Palazzo Loredan, Venetian Institute of Science, Arts and Letters

OPULENT. Über ganz Venedig waren historische Locations der Glaswoche verteilt.

BEMÜTZT. Objekte von Thomas Stearns waren auf San Giorgio Maggiore zu sehen.



Glasige Blicke

Neue Akzente im Umfeld traditionellen Handwerks setzte zuletzt die dritte Glass Week in Venedig.

Text: Sabine B. Vogel



BENVENUTI. Das Duo Drago & Auriel gestaltete die Lounge der Nomad-Designmesse.

ACQUA AND CONTRASTO LIMITED EDITION

“Reshaping the Tradition” solo show.

ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE, TOKYO
10TH – 25TH MAY 2019

Italian Cultural Institute Tokyo, Japan



RESHAPING THE TRADITION SOLO SHOW

Under the patronage of Italian Embassy of Japan.

ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE, TOKYO
10TH – 25TH MAY 2019

Italian Cultural Institute Tokyo, Japan

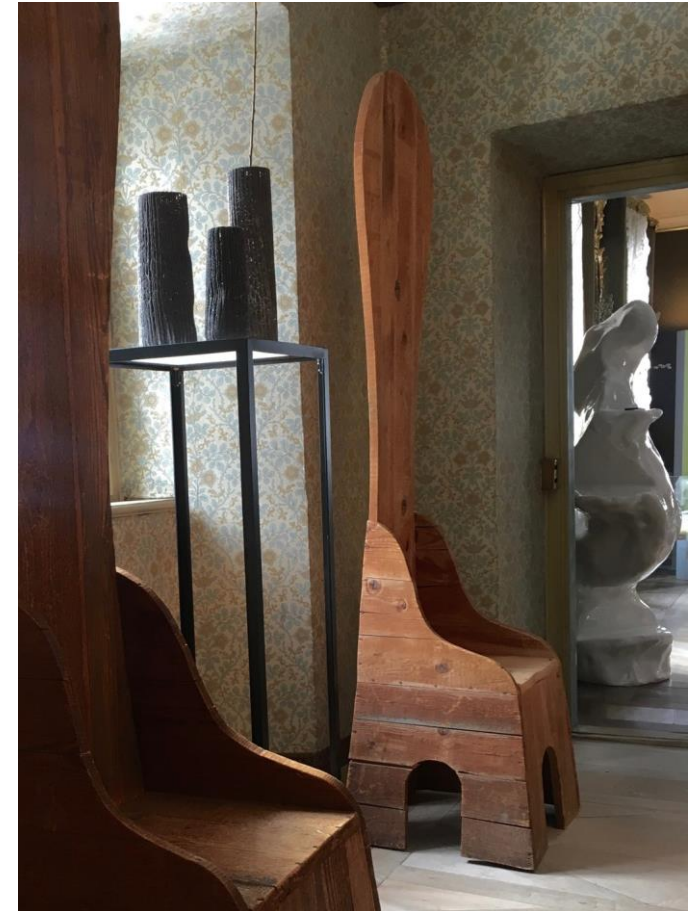


INCONTRI METROPOLITANI

Screening preview during the exhibition *Reshaping the Tradition*.

NOMAD FAIR, ST. MORITZ
7TH - 11TH FEBRUARY 2019

Galleria Luisa Delle Piane, St. Moritz, Switzerland



LINFA SERIES 2019

Preview at Nomad Fair.

FOG DESIGN+ART, SAN FRANCISCO
17TH – 20TH JANUARY 2019

Fort Mason Center San Francisco, US



LAGUNA SERIES 2016

Presented at FOG Design + Art Fair.

TRIFORME SERIES 2019

The chromatic choice of this series of glass artworks explains the artist's need to create stylised and minimal shapes through the use of different shades of color. The bronze tones, obtained by the union of different oxides, shade together until reaching the transparent crystal. The light shades, accentuated by the signs of the grinding, wrap up the primordial shaped sculptures which become "creatures" that invite to be caressed and hold in the arms.

This series is the example of how much is important to the artist to experiment and to go far away from the classical rules of working with Murano blown glass. These abstract shapes, always reminding a triangular element, as a distinguishing symbol of Michela Cattai, are what is the most far from the usual shapes of Murano glass and become unique sculptures with their own identity.

CANNETO SERIES LAGUNA 2016

The focus of Laguna is the importance of the color and its relationship with the light. In these pieces Michela Cattai tries to combine the landscape of Venice with the transparencies and the shades of glass, realizing a series of glass artworks with intense tones and shading. The bronze color, reminding us the famous paintings of Tintoretto, becomes even more precious thanks to the cold finishing on top, where the technique of battuto or inciso give the piece a complete different look.

CANNETO SERIES LAGUNA 2016

Hand-blown glass vase, triangular base ending in a round shape towards the shoulder; battuto engraving, *a nastro* (ribbon) finishing.
2016 Venice, Italy.

MIAMI/DESIGN BASEL
13TH - 18TH JUNE 2017
Basel, CH



SOLO EXHIBITION. SALA DEL CENACOLO, CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, ROME, ITALY
12TH – 21TH APRIL 2017



Michela Cattai has been invited to exhibit her Canneto series collection at the Chamber of deputies in Rome as part of the excellences selected in the glass design industry.

CANNETO SERIES FASCE 2017

“Originality is going back to the origins.” The best known aphorism of the great Catalan modernist architect Antoni Gaudí refers to the direct relationship of the artist with Nature as a source of inspiration, regardless of the influences imposed by cultural history, of the mediation of those who came before, and also of the artist’s contemporaries. Thus Michela Cattai has landed on a medium such as glass, and on her work with the glass furnace, in order to give her own interpretation to images rooted in her memory, which are an integral part of her youth in Venice. These images are not just the outcome of the human mind—in a city, Venice, that is par excellence art and artifice—but of everything that surrounds it, the waterways, and the vegetation of the Laguna habitat, at times a desolate landscape, but always full of charm.

It’s from these that derive her monochromatic vases, which in their essential nature exalt their vitreous makeup in the tonalities that recall the colors of the swampy waters of the Laguna at different times of the day and in different seasons. The blown-glass cane glass pieces, on the other hand, are inspired by the cane fields of the “barene” (lands that are periodically flooded by the tides) and were purposely conceived with an irregular upward thrust (unlike their natural counterpart, which has a perfectly linear shape), often beaten by winds and covered in mud, a constant presence in this habitat. The series Canneto is a highly suggestive collection, and it represents Michela Cattai’s debut in glasswork. Not an absolute debut, but, rather, a return, a new spark of a young love, which, during the years of her educational training—at the Accademia delle Belle Arti in had brought her to the creation of some glass pieces in Murano.

While the source of inspiration for the series Canneto is the natural landscape of the Laguna, the material and the technique that distinguishes it and that makes it of such high-quality are typical of the tradition of Murano, the Venetian seat of glass making, a tradition deeply rooted in history. The uniformity and the perfection of the webbing of the glass canes from the Renaissance, though, did not lend itself to recreate the canes of the marshes of the “barena,” always mixed with sand and mud and partly submerged in the waters of the Laguna. Thus, Cattai has “dirtied” the glassy fabric with a layer of dark glass, which, similar to brush strokes, confers a paint-like texture of a decidedly contemporary style to the walls of the vases.

CANNETO SERIES ACQUAMARINA 2016, PART OF MURANO GLASS MUSEUM'S PERMANENT COLLECTION IN VENICE

