

## A Very Light Art

**Mario Airò | Stefano Arienti | Flavio Favelli | Luigi Ontani  
Gabriel Orozco | Cerith Wyn Evans | Heimo Zobernig**

**Venice, Ca' Rezzonico - Museum of 18<sup>th</sup> century Venice  
31<sup>st</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

*A Very Light Art* is an exhibition about the **interface between art and the everyday object**. It is a reflection about design, and a study of the historic role of artists in relation to the built environment. The exhibition is located in the historic environs of the Ca' Rezzonico, museum of 18th century Venice.

**Promoted by the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia with the collaboration of Università IUAV di Venezia, Dipartimento di Culture del Progetto**, the project was launched by **Caterina Tognon** as an outgrowth of her longterm focus on artists when they use glass as a media, and in particular for this show, on the design of the chandelier.

The exhibition **curated by Cornelia Lauf**, with the **scientific direction of Gabriella Belli**, features seven notable contemporary artists: **Mario Airò, Stefano Arienti, Flavio Favelli, Luigi Ontani, Gabriel Orozco, Cerith Wyn Evans, Heimo Zobernig**. The list of artists features individuals noteworthy for their extraordinary sensitivity to material and context.

**Mario Airò** has proposed a lighting fixture using neon, a desk he has designed for Adele-C, in Milan, and a standing flower vase created with one of the finest coppersmiths in Italy, Luigi Barato. Each object reveals its usefulness, yet can stand alone as a sculpture. Superlative artisanal techniques are also at the core of these apparently simple objects.

**Stefano Arienti** has proposed a small forest of trees composed of branches, with votive candles hanging from them. These are installed in one of the regal drawing rooms of the Ca' Rezzonico, as lamp fixtures. Recalling Surrealist film, Arte Povera installations, and even the work of some of the Fluxus artists, this configuration of natural plants, spray-painted and festooned with the most common articles, stands in deliberate contrast to the noble palazzo.

**Flavio Favelli** is known for his magical transformations of mundane household objects, and their recomposition into sculptures of majesty and poetry. Gilded frames carrying velvet curtains, regal mirrors with surfaces washed away, or recomposed chandeliers turned from elements that are kitsch, into objects of beauty and grandeur. A major chandelier named *Violet Murano* is installed at the Grand Canal entrance of the Museo Ca' Rezzonico.



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**Luigi Ontani**, grand master of the Italian art scene, offers his signature inversion of names and myths, in a series of works that seem contrived specifically for the Ca' Rezzonico, but in fact, predate the exhibition. Ontani's principle work is the chandelier *Mayadusa*, his first such glass lamp, realized in 1988 with the glassblower Maestro Silvano Signoretto. In the same room, will be exhibited *Nel Regno del Ragno Eggoista*, a large mirror depicting a spider weaving its web, and the vase *Vanitaso*, both accompanied by preparatory watercolors. The titles of the works are more than redolent of the artist's elegant studies of allegory, purpose, material, and context.

**Gabriel Orozco** is featured in the selection of two marvelous *mobiles*, enormous and ultra-light contraptions fabricated from hundreds of feathers. One *mobile* is in white feathers, the other, a cloud of light brown. These works, exhibited in a Parisian gallery for their first presentation, are now situated in the august chambers they might have been conceived for. A superb update of ancient lighting fixtures. In a New World adaptation of an Old World form, Orozco supplants a reference to flowers or natural forms (such as would be seen in a glass chandelier), with nature itself. His easy play nonetheless stems from a deep knowledge of sculpture and materials, as well as predecessors from Calder to Mirò.

**Cerith Wyn Evans** has elected to rewire the famous Ca' Rezzonico chandelier, a marvelous work of art fabricated in the mid XVIII century. The chandelier, structured in the form of a "pagoda" in white glass with polychromy ornamento, was conceived and produced by Giuseppe Briati in Murano. Called also "Rezzonico" chandelier, the "Ciocca Veneziana" was subsequently produced in many variations, exported around the world, and considered the archetypal chandelier of Murano's tradition. Evans has often used *readymade* lighting fixtures, and here too utilizes a suite of music known for its elegiac qualities, and placing under it one glass chrysanthemum produced especially for the occasion of the exhibition. The chandelier is meant to flicker to the tune of the music. A subtle and poetic "détournement" of history, capturing the melancholy that is unique to Venice.

**Heimo Zobernig's** work has received international renown in recent years, culminating in his major retrospective in Madrid at the Reina Sofia, in 2012. For *A Very Light Art* Zobernig agreed to create a specially produced light object, a lamp that does not shed light so much as attract attention for its rare beauty. It is an object that is the largest glass size that can be blown in Murano, and has been produced in ruby red spheres, in a little edition.

A catalogue edited by Veronica Bellei and Camilla Salvaneschi and published by Kaleidoscope, Milan, features a text by Cornelia Lauf. It comprises an extensive photographic survey of the unique installation at Museo Ca' Rezzonico by Francesco Allegretto, Pamela Breda and Luca Vascon. The catalogue is sponsored by Carlo Franchetti.

A brochure about the exhibition also features a map highlighting some of the most important or surprising lamps in Venice, as researched by Caterina Tognon, and designed by Valerio Veneruso.

In collaboration with

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Venue

Ca' Rezzonico - Museum of 18th century Venice  
Dorsoduro 3136, 30123 Venice

#### Press-preview

29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Opening

29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(entrance exclusively by invitation only, subject to availability)

#### Open to the public

31st May – 24th november 2013

The exhibition is included in the Museum's layout

#### Opening Times

until 31/X, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. (ticket office 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

from 1/XI, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (ticket office 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

closed on Tuesday

#### TICKETS

Full price: 8 €

Reduced price: 5,50 €

children from 6 to 14 years old; students under 25 years old; 65 years attained; Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali members; leaders of groups of young people or students (max. 2); Rolling Venice Card holder; FAI members\*

#### Free

residents or people born in the Comune di Venezia; children from 0 to 5 years old; disabled people with a companion; authorized guides; tour leaders accompanying groups; 1 free entry for every 15 tickets by prior booking; I.C.O.M. members; MUVE Friend Card holder

*\*a document is required*

#### INFORMATION

[carezzonico.visitmuve.it](http://carezzonico.visitmuve.it)

[info@fmcvenezia.it](mailto:info@fmcvenezia.it)

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### LIST OF WORKS

01.  
Mario Airò  
*Il suono dell'acqua*  
2009  
varnished steel, brass and maple  
seeds,  
small neon circle Ø cm. 40  
40 x 180 cm circa  
Courtesy of  
the artist  
Vistamare, Pescara  
Tucci Russo, Torre Pelice (To)

02.  
Mario Airo'  
*Victor*  
2010  
solid maple and light and dark  
bamboo, with lid, open and  
hologramme,  
95 x 143 x 78 cm  
Courtesy of Adele-C, Meda (Mi)

03.  
Mario Airo'  
*Untitled*  
2012  
vase for long-stemmed flowers,  
copper tube bent and burnished,  
glass test tubes  
made to measure  
Luigi Barato production, Camisano  
(Vi)  
125 x 78 cm / Ø 20 mm copper tube,  
Courtesy of Golden Ruler, Rome

04.  
Stefano Arienti  
*Caravaggio I*  
2013  
plane tree branch with leaves  
varnished with gold, votive candles,  
120 x 210 x 60 cm  
Courtesy of  
the artist  
Caterina Tognon, Venice  
Studio Guenzani, Milan

05.  
Stefano Arienti  
*Caravaggio II*  
2013  
plane tree branch with leaves  
varnished with gold, votive candles,  
140 x 200 x 90 cm  
Courtesy of  
the artist  
Caterina Tognon, Venice  
Studio Guenzani, Milan

06.  
Stefano Arienti  
*Signora di Loreto*  
2013  
plane tree branch and crepe paper  
flowers,  
300 x 125 x 150 cm  
Courtesy of  
the artist  
Caterina Tognon, Venice  
Studio Guenzani, Milan

07.  
Flavio Favelli  
*Violet Murano*  
2013  
lighting structure, glass, neon,  
175 x 153 x 153  
Courtesy of  
the artist  
Galleria S.A.L.E.S., Rome  
Grateful thanks to Caterina Tognon,  
Venice

08.  
Luigi Ontani  
*Nel regno del ragno Eggoista*  
2005  
work in two parts  
mirror and Murano glass,  
118,5 x 102 x 16 cm  
watercolour and Indian ink on paper,  
90,5 x 90,5 cm  
Courtesy of the artist



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09.  
Luigi Ontani  
*Vanitas*  
2000  
work in two parts  
glass blown "a mano volante" by  
Maestro Silvano Signoretto, Murano,  
81 x 32 x 28 cm  
watercolour and Indian ink on paper,  
42x59 cm  
Courtesy of the artist

10.  
Luigi Ontani  
*Mayadusa*  
1987/88  
glass chandelier blown "a mano  
volante" by Maestro Silvano  
Signoretto, Murano,  
120 x 120 cm  
Courtesy of Carlo Franchetti  
Collection

11.  
Gabriel Orozco  
*Roiseau 11*  
2012  
bamboo and feathers,  
170 x 150 x 140 cm  
Courtesy of Galerie Chantal Crousel

12.  
Gabriel Orozco  
*Roiseau 12*  
2012  
bamboo and feathers,  
240 x 120 x 180 cm  
Courtesy of Galerie Chantal Crousel

13.  
Cerith Wyn Evans  
*Space here becomes Time*  
2013  
light installation  
*Ciocca* chandelier by G. Briati,  
Murano, XVIIIth century,  
200 x 166 x 166 cm  
(courtesy of Ca' Rezzonico)  
Independent breather unit and flash  
player  
Courtesy of White Cube  
Caterina Tognon, Venice  
Grateful thanks to Lorcan O' Neill,  
Rome

14.  
Cerith Wyn Evans  
*Time here becomes Space*  
2013  
work in five parts  
glass blown "a mano volante" by  
Maestro Gianni Seguso, Murano  
environmental dimensions  
Courtesy of  
White Cube  
Caterina Tognon, Venice  
Grateful thanks to Lorcan O' Neill,  
Rome

15.  
Heimo Zobernig  
*Untitled*  
2012  
installation with 13 suspended  
elements  
glass blown "a mano volante" and  
lighting system,  
68 x 48 x 48 cm  
Edition limited to 20  
blown in Formia, Murano  
Courtesy of Caterina Tognon, Venice  
Galleria Gentili, Prato  
Simon Lee, London



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