

Ὑαλός.Why glass?

Following the successful show *Keramikòs*, ceramic of the XIX century, at Claudia Gian Ferrari in December 2006, we are now introducing a project for a new exhibition on contemporary glass in the gallery CLAUDIA GIAN FERRARI in Milan and concurrently at CATERINA TOGNON ARTE CONTEMPORANEA in Venice.

Why, at least once on their career, so many artists decide to approach glass and choose it as a medium to experiment new forms of expressions? What is it that attracts them?

Most ancient invention, allegedly the first man-made chemical product, the use of glass was traditionally confined to functional and/or decorative field.

In the of second half of last century, while the mass production industry began discarding glass in favour of plastic, architects and artists began rediscovering the expressive potential of this material.

Fragile and still resistant, fused like bronze or blown like a soap bubble, light or heavy, transparent or colourful, seductive but sharp, possibly dangerous, ductile while being worked and then suddenly rigid, smooth and rough, massive as a rock or thin and transparent, almost evanescent

Just by the mere fact of using it, artists surprise us, make raise in us emotions and instinctive, we would say ancestral, reactions.

The risk is that authors, seduced by the substance, become victims in a game of sterile beauty. Curating this project, we started looking for pieces that would add a strong significance to such a material, still so scarcely employed by visual artists. Some artists reached this goal in a very casual way. Some others, to the contrary, ended up developing a sort of tight loyalty to this medium.

We reckon that the selected artists have all succeeded in bending this “aristocratic” material to their specific communicative ambitions, telling us something new.

We asked Luca Massimo Barbero to write an introductory essay for the catalogue.

Claudia Gian Ferrari
Caterina Tognon

17 January – 20 March 2008

Opening Thursday 17 of January, 6.30 p.m.

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19 January – 4 May 2008

Opening Saturday 19 of January, 6.30 p.m.

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