

PIERRE MARIE

GIRAUD

YOICHI OHIRA

April 19 - May 12, 2018

Press release



Opening — Wednesday April 18, 2018.
5-8pm

Exhibition — April 19 - May 12, 2018.
Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-1pm, 2-6pm

Settled in Murano during more than 35 years, Yoichi Ohira the Japanese glass artist has made of the small island an inexhaustible source of inspiration, and of glass an infinite territory to explore. Along his career, Ohira has been producing an incomparable body of works that encompasses all the traditional technics of Venetian blown and cold-worked glass. Intentionally detached from any art movement or references, he lays claim to an art inspired by what surrounds him: Venice lagoon, the seasons, the windows of Venetian houses. Hence the title of the pieces : Una Casa Con Le Finestre, Il Lago E Le Nuvole, La Laguna Rossa In Tempesta...

Although made of cold and hard glass, Ohira's objects fit comfortably in the hand and their smooth surfaces and curves are appealing for the touch. Inviting to be picked up, to be turned around and scrutinized, like a kaleidoscope each piece is mesmerizing.

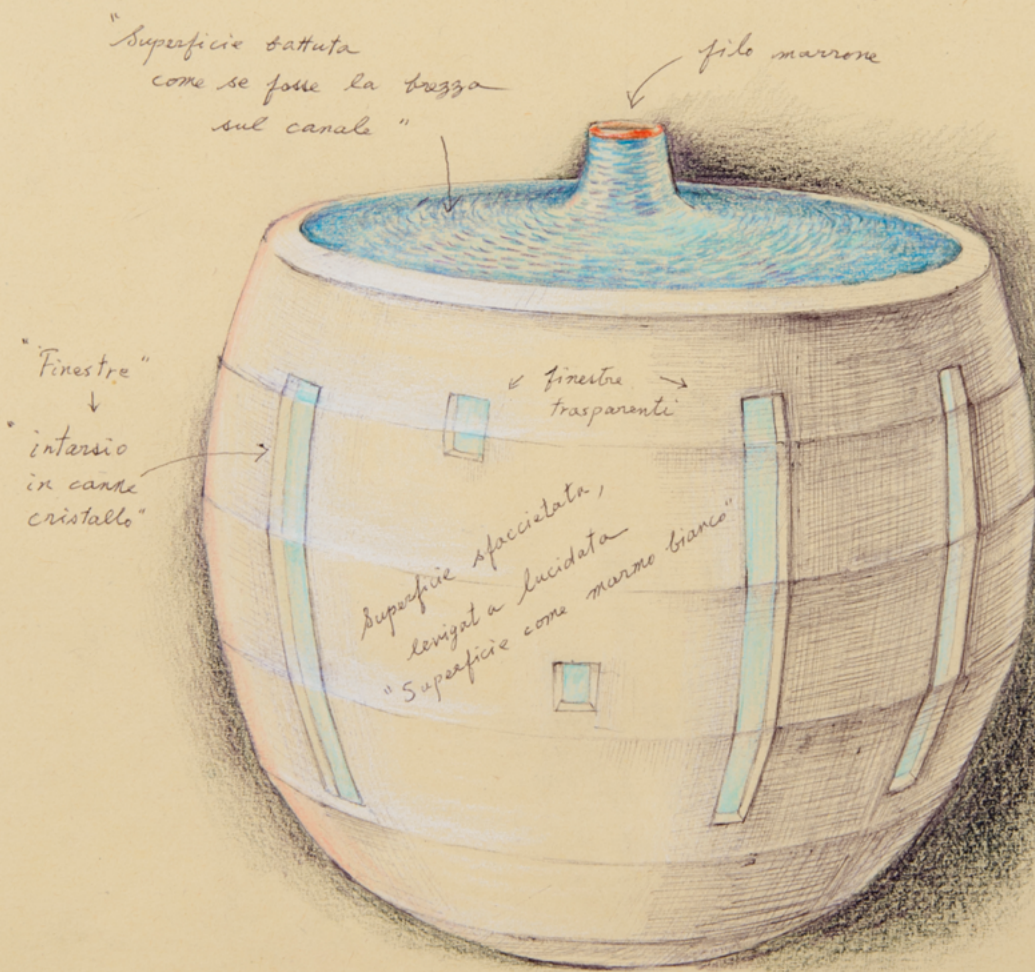
Ohira is a designer, not a craftsman. There is no improvisation in his practice. All the pieces exhibited —spanning from 1995 to 2008— are born from a sharp watercolor drawing studded with precise instructions, and the immense skills of the glass Maestri of Murano; the ones able to make glass look opaque, to take on the aspect of ivory or wood, the texture of a breeze on water or the sleekness of wax, to imitate the patterns of malachite or marble, to evoke a flower petal, a lichen or a precious stone; the ones able to reach and meet the insatiable versatility and demanding imagination of Ohira.


1		Collezione 2001-2002		YOICHI OHIRA ♂	
1	Vaso "Crateri" (2001) h. 23.4 φ 18.4 Friday 26-10-01	11	Vaso "Fontana verde" (2001) h. 21.8 φ 14.4 Friday 29-6-01	21	Vaso "Gomogli, ore, zuppa, fave, fave, fave" (2001) h. 16.7 φ 21.5-17.2 Thursday 01-11-01
2	Vaso "Crateri" (2002) h. 21.5 φ 17.8 Friday 25-01-02	12	Vaso "Fontana azzurra" (2001) h. 19.8 φ 16 Friday 29-6-01	22	Vaso "Laguna azzurra" (2001) h. 19.5 φ 16.4 Thursday 29-11-02
3	Vaso "Finestre tonde sommerse" (2002) h. 22.2 φ 15.1 Friday 01-2-02	13	Vaso "Miraggio invernale" (2001) h. 22.3 φ 15.4 Friday 07-9-01	23	Vaso "Laguna verde" (2001) h. 20.2 φ 16.7 AB insieme Friday 23-11-01
4	Vaso "Crateri" (2001) h. 25 φ 16.1 Friday 19-10-01	14	Vaso "Inverno" (2002) h. 23.7 φ 15.9 Friday 25-01-02	24	Vaso "Paesaggi interiori" (2002) h. 25 φ 16 Friday 25-01-02
5	Vaso "Finestre rosse sommerse" (2001) h. 24 φ 14.8 Friday 09-11-01	15	Vaso "Mantello" (2001) h. 22.2 φ 15.4 Friday 07-9-01	25	Vaso "Paesaggi interiori" (2002) h. 26.5 φ 14.8 Friday 25-01-02
6	Vaso "Finestre sommerse" (2001) h. 19.3 φ 16.3 Friday 19-10-01	16	Vaso "Fontana azzurra" (2001) h. 15.2 φ 18.4 Friday 07-9-01	26	Vaso "Polvere sommersa" (2001) h. 19.5 φ 21.5-18.7 Friday 23-11-01
7	Vaso "Mosaica a polverina" (2001) h. 22 φ 15.3 Thursday 01-11-01	17	Vaso "Riflessi di cerchi d'acqua" (2001) h. 19.6 φ 17 Thursday 01-11-01	27	Vaso "Macchie informali" (2001) h. 20.3 φ 15 Friday 26-10-01
8	Vaso "Mosaica a polverina" (2001) h. 22 φ 15.3 Thursday 01-11-01	18	Vaso "Anello di polvere" (2001) h. 16 φ 18 Friday 16-11-01	28	Vaso "Mosaica" (2001) h. 20 φ 16.1 Thursday 05-7-01
9	Vaso "Mosaica a polverina" (2001) h. 19.8 φ 15.9 Friday 23-11-01	19	Vaso "Cascata" (2001) h. 18 φ 16.7 Thursday 29-11-01	29	Vaso "Mosaica" (2001) h. 19 φ 16.2 Friday 01-2-02
10	Vaso "Fontana azzurra" (2001) h. 17.9 φ 16.7 Thursday 06-12-01	20	Vaso "Macchie ritmate" (2001) h. 21.1 φ 16.8 Friday 19-10-01	30	Vaso "Mosaica" (2001) h. 21.3 φ 16.8 Friday 09-11-01
				31	Vaso "Sidnetto nero" (2002) h. 26.3 φ 14.8 Friday 01-2-02
				32	Vaso "Fiamme rosse" (2001) h. 19.8 φ 17 Friday 09-11-01
				33	Vaso "Tessere smaltate" (2001) h. 19.7 φ 15.1 Friday 22-06-01
				34	Vaso "Bosca rosso" (2001) h. 17.4 φ 15.5 Friday 22-06-01
				35	Vaso "Lago della periferia di New York" (2001) h. 12.9 φ 19.4 Thursday 14-06-02
				36	Vaso "Anello di polvere" (2001) h. 15.7 φ 21 Friday 14-9-01
				37	Vaso "Anello di polvere" (2001) h. 15.7 φ 21.6 Friday 14-9-01

"Opacità e Trasparenza"
Vaso "La stanza di marmo sulla laguna"

(1999 - 2000)

(Contenitore - stanza)



Yoichi Okira 
1999

Biography

Japanese, born in 1946 in Tokyo

In 1969, Ohira graduated from the Kuwasawa Design School in Tokyo. During his studies there, he read a novel set in Finland by Hiroyuki Itsuki, the well-known Japanese writer. This book introduced him to the fascinating world of art glass.

After graduating, he went on becoming a glassblowing apprentice at Kagami Crystal Company, Ltd. in Tokyo, where he worked for a year and a half. In 1971, he became a glassblower at a smaller glassworks in Chiba province, where he worked for one year.

Ohira moved to Venice in 1973, and enrolled in the Sculpture program at the Accademia di Bella Arti (Academy of Fine Arts). That same year, he met Egidio Costantini of Fucina degli Angeli, known for his glass sculptures, and worked as one of his collaborators for many years. In 1978, Ohira graduated from the Accademia di Belle Arte with honors, and received the highest possible grade for his degrees thesis, *The Aesthetics of Glass*.

Upon graduation, Ohira began to work in sculpture, producing works made of combination of welded iron with plate glass, exhibiting them in group one-man shows, mainly in Italy.

His collaboration with La Fucina degli Angeli introduced him to Murano glass circles, and in 1987 he was invited as a designer to create a series of art glass collections for the de Majo glassworks of Murano. In the same year, he won the «Premio Selezione» of the Premio Murano.

He has been working as an independent artist in the glass field since the early 1990s, producing one-of-a-kind pieces in collaboration with the best Murano master glassmakers.

In 2001, he was awarded the Rakow Commission by the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York, U.S.A.

In 2010, Yoichi Ohira ceased his artistic production and returned to Japan. He is pursuing his researches in glass.

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Notturmo Vase

2004

Hand-blown glass canes with murrine, avventurina, granular and powder inserts; partial battuto, inciso and polished surface.

19,1 x 16,5 x 16,5 cm

7.5 x 6.5 x 6.5 in

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Polvere Vase

2003

hand-blown glass canes with murrine and powder inserts; partial inciso surface.

26,4 x 25,7 x 25,7 cm

10.4 x 10.1 x 10.1 in

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Macchia di Marmo Verde Vase
2000

Polished and ground hand-blown glass
canes with murrine and powder inserts
13 x 17 x 17 cm
5.1 x 6.7 x 6.7 in

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Mosaico a polvere con cerchi / La

Laguna

2002

Hand-blown glass canes with murrine
and powder inserts, polished and ground

18,2 x 18,2 x 23 cm

7.17 x 7.17 x 9.06 in

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For more information about the artist, the exhibition or the works, and for high-resolution images, please contact charlotte@pierremariegiraud.com

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