

# THE GLASS ARK

## Animals in the Pierre Rosenberg Collection



Butterflies by Bruno Amadi, 1980s. Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.



Deer, acid-etched, A.Ve.M. glassworks, 1930s.  
Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.

Whales [Gino Cenedese & Figlio] and  
Zanetti Vetreria Artistica, 1950s–1980s.  
Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.

Photography by Enrico Fiorese

*The Glass Ark: Animals in the Pierre Rosenberg Collection* exhibition, a project of Fondazione Giorgio Cini and Pentagram Stiftung, is being held at LE STANZE DEL VETRO on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, in Venice, Italy. Curated by Giordana Naccari and Cristina Beltrami, it will run through August 1, 2021. In an original and fascinating way, the exhibition, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily except Wednesdays, will retrace the history of 20th-century Murano glass from an unusual angle—the glass animal. Admission to the exhibition is free.

The show focuses on the extraordinary glass animal collection of Pierre Rosenberg, former Director/President of the Louvre in Paris, France. It will feature over 750 works of art from Rosenberg's collection that includes elephants, hippos, cats, giraffes, bears, parrots, fish, turtles, and foxes, plus tiny, lampworked life-size insects.

### A Passion for Originality

At a time when this kind of glass production was still regarded as mere souvenirs or a sort of furnace *divertissement*, Pierre Rosenberg showed an authentic passion for the work that was free from the influence of fashion. He created an extremely original and vast collection, which he put together over a period of 30 years. Some of the most famous series will be on display including the *pulegosi* (bubble glass) pieces by Napoleone Martinuzzi, the birds by Tyra Lundgren, and works by Toni Zuccheri for Venini Glassworks.

Alongside the *Zebrati* zebra-striped series by Barovier & Toso, the aquariums by Alfredo Barbini and the well-known examples by Seguso Vetri d'Arte, *The Glass Ark* will also feature a vast sample of animals made by lesser-known but equally interesting glassworks. These will be shown from the point of view of the technical and design experimentation of 20th-century Murano glass production. In addition, the exhibition will showcase sculptures by living artists such as Cristiano Bianchin, Isabelle Poilprez, Maria Grazia Rosin, and Giorgio Vigna who demonstrate the inexhaustible source of inspiration that the glass animal has to offer.





*Anteater, Toni Zuccheri  
for Barovier & Toso glassworks, 1983.  
Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.*



*Roosters and Parrot by Dino Martens for Aureliano Toso, 1950s.  
Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.*



*Three Animals in massiccio  
(solid) glass, Franck Ehrler, 2005.  
Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.*



*Two Octopuses, 1930s and 1950s.  
Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.*



*Cat of the Moonlight Series, designed by Antonio Da Ros for the Gino Cenedese & Figlio glassworks, c. 1964. Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.*



*Owl in amber glass with murrine eyes, 1980s. Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.*



*Bears, Ercole Barovier for Vetreria Artistica Barovier & C. and vetreria muranese, 1930s-1940s. Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.*



Fox Terrier, Barovier & Toso glassworks, 1947. Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO.



Fox, Flavio Poli for ASV - Barovier Seguso Ferro, 1935. Courtesy LE STANZE DEL VETRO.



Tiger, Flavio Poli, I.V.A.M. glassworks, 1930–1931. Courtesy of LE STANZE DEL VETRO

## Extras

The exhibition setup will be curated by Denise Carnini and Francesca Pedrotti, two young stage designers who will engage in setting up a glass zoo. It will also include an animated video by Giulia Savorani, visual artist and director who, starting from drawings on glass, has created a fairy-tale cartoon based on an idea by Giordana Naccari for this occasion.

*The Glass Ark: Animals in the Pierre Rosenberg Collection* will be accompanied by a catalog edited by Skira that will open with an interview revealing the spirit of the collector. Also included are essays by the curators, by Jean-Luc Olivié, curator of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs of Paris, and by glass historian Rosa Barovier Mentasti.

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For more information on attending *The Glass Ark* exhibition, contact the following:

### Fondazione Giorgio Cini

T: +39 041 2710280

[stampa@cini.it](mailto:stampa@cini.it)

[www.cini.it](http://www.cini.it)

### LE STANZE DEL VETRO

T: +39 345 2535925

[press@lestanzedelvetro.org](mailto:press@lestanzedelvetro.org)

[www.lestanzedelvetro.org](http://www.lestanzedelvetro.org)

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