

December 2023

## **Modesti Perdriolle Gallery**

Presents

### **Antonio Da Ros 'Suspended Colors'**

Exhibition at Modesti-Pedriolle Gallery, Brussels 27 January – 23 March 2024  
(Opening on 27 January at 18:00)

Antonio Da Ros (1936-2012) stood out as one of the greatest Murano glass designers in the last century. Born in Venice, he received his training at the Carmini Istituto di Arti Decorative, a renowned school known for nurturing the city's artistic avant-garde. In 1957, at the age of 21, he earned the title of Professor of Decorative Arts and Architecture.

At the age of 17 in 1959, Da Ros connected with Gino Cenedese & C, a glass factory with a tradition of highly skilled master glassblowers. Here, he explored various techniques, with a notable focus on 'sommerso,' a complex process that involves enclosing layers of colored glass within crystal glass. Da Ros mastered the art of juxtaposing or superimposing layers of colored glass, skillfully suspending color within essentially geometrically shaped vases, transforming them from decorative objects into sculptures.

Da Ros's glass pieces are essentially conceptual works engaging in a dialogue with contemporary art language. They represent sculptures within the vibrant art scene of Venice, marked by international exhibitions like the Biennale, where Da Ros was a frequent participant, and influential cultural circles, notably that of Peggy Guggenheim, which encouraged local artists toward abstract solutions.

The exhibition, Antonio Da Ros: Suspended Colors, showcases around forty pieces from da Ros's most prolific period spanning the 1960s to the 1980s. It aims to highlight the artist's influence from artistic movements, particularly Spatialism, evident not only in the aesthetics but also in the titles of his works.

The submerged technique is also evident in Da Ros's stylized animal series, featuring fish, elephants, mammoths, water birds, and Moonlight cats. The exhibition briefly explores this aspect of his production, emphasizing its significance, as seen in the 1962 Biennial catalogue featuring fish.

This marks the first solo exhibition of Antonio Da Ros abroad, serving a dual purpose: introducing the extraordinary designer to the Belgian public and placing his

work in a broader context that considers all the influences and references Da Ros drew upon.

To underscore the historical importance of Da Ros's work, a Journal accompanies the exhibition at Modesti-Pedriolle Gallery, rich in historical reference images. This serves as an initial exploration of a key figure in 20th-century glass design, with a more comprehensive study planned in a subsequent volume on Antonio Da Ros (5continents, 2024), edited by Cristina Beltrami.

The exhibition in Brussels is particularly meaningful given Belgium's strong collectionism tied to Venetian glass. Some of Da Ros's glass pieces are already present at the Musées Royaux des Beaux Arts in Brussels. To further emphasize the Italo-Belgian connection, on 8 February 2024, the Italian Cultural Institute in Brussels will host a conference on the subject, led by Cristina Beltrami.