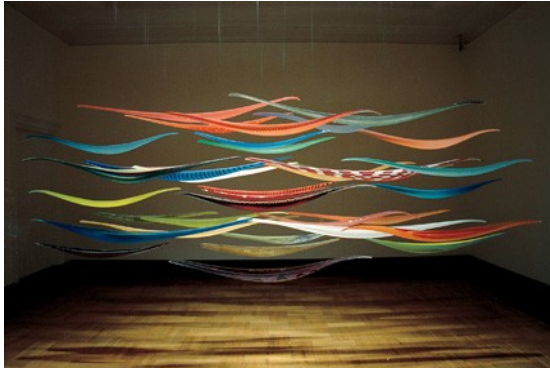


FAMED ITALIAN GLASS ARTIST FEATURED IN EXHIBITION AT PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM

Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect: A Modern Renaissance in Italian Glass
Exhibition Runs September 26 - December 27, 2009



September 25, 2009 (Palm Springs, CA)
– A teacher. An elder statesman. A maestro of glassblowing. These are just a few of the titles famed glassblower Lino Tagliapietra has earned during his forty-year career. His remarkable work is showcased in the exhibition *Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect: A Modern Renaissance in Italian Glass* at the Palm Springs Art Museum that opens September 26 and runs until December

27, 2009. Tagliapietra is widely revered as the master of glass blowing, an inspiring teacher and the definitive expert who is credited with shaping the course of international Studio Glass. The exhibition will allow visitors to get an intimate look at the incredible selection of glass art produced in his career. This is the first exhibition to provide an overview of his passion and skill which has linked glass centers around the globe from Venice, Italy to the United States.

A comprehensive retrospective of Tagliapietra's art and career, the exhibition documents and celebrates his remarkable achievements as a contemporary artist. It includes 169 art works that range from a room-size installation of his 35-piece *Endeavor* boat series, to groupings of masterful goblets, to elegant and evocative sculptural forms. The exhibition features works from Tagliapietra's own personal collection and collections around the world, as well as designs made for industry and objects that will be exhibited for the first time. It includes objects ranging from small eggs to large vessels embedded with complex patterns of color and texture. The series is grouped into categories such as Goblets, Strombolis (named after a volcano in Italy), Dinosaurs, Batman, and Hopi. Each series represents a specific style and technique.



The exhibition is documented by a catalogue with essays by Susanne K. Frantz, former curator of 20th-century glass at The Corning Museum of Glass, and Dr. Helmut Ricke, internationally acclaimed scholar and glass historian. A detailed

chronology of Tagliapietra's life and his contributions to the history of the visual arts are included as well as a memoir and technical overview authored by Dante Marioni, renowned Seattle glassmaker and early Tagliapietra student. It will be available in the Museum Store for \$50. A DVD of Tagliapietra demonstrating his signature glassmaking techniques accompanies the catalogue and will be on view in the gallery.

Tagliapietra will appear twice at the museum during the run of the exhibition. On November 3, he will give a lecture (open to museum members only) where he will describe his techniques and inspirations. He will return to the museum on December 1 at 10:30 a.m. for a panel discussion that will include a glass art collector, exhibition curator Susanne Frantz and an individual from the Pilchuck Glass School. This event is open to the public and includes a tour of the exhibition. Admission will be \$10. An optional luncheon with the panelists following the tour will be offered for \$75. This event is sponsored by the museum's Contemporary Art Council.

On October 11, the Coachella Valley Repertory organization will offer a special program at the museum entitled "Reflections of Lino." This specially-commissioned performance piece will feature four dancers from the Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company and will pay homage to Tagliapietra's work through theatrical lighting, music, dance and narrative. The piece will kick off the museum's new Free Second Sunday series of events and will take place at 2:00 p.m. in the museum's Annenberg Theater.

On November 14 and 15, the museum will feature a Mobile Hot Shop, a fully equipped glass blowing studio that was designed by the Tacoma Museum of Glass. The Mobile Hot Shop will offer an interactive glassblowing demonstration from highly skilled artists working with molten glass while a trained commentator explains the art and science of glass. This will be the first time that this Mobile Hot Shop will appear in the Southern California area.

"Lino's knowledge of glassmaking methodology is so deep that when combined with his inherent sense of color and design, the results are unparalleled," said Suzanne K. Franz, curator of the exhibition and former curator of twentieth-century glass at the Corning Museum of Glass. "As a designer, he somehow combines two- and three-dimensional patterning with multiple hues into one harmonious, exuberant whole within his mind's eye. As a skilled craftsman, he then proceeds to execute a vision which would be folly for anyone else to even attempt."

About Lino Tagliapietra



Born in 1934 on a small Italian island, Tagliapietra rose from a working class family and a minimal education to become an internationally acknowledged glass artist and *maestro*, an honor given to the most highly recognized of Italian glassmakers.

Tagliapietra worked exclusively on the island of Murano until he received an invitation to demonstrate glassblowing techniques at the Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, Washington in 1979. While at Pilchuck, he created unique glass objects using techniques that had rarely, if ever, been seen in the United States. The knowledge he shared, which traditionally had been regarded as Italian trade secrets, helped the artists of the Studio Glass movement develop the brilliant technical skills that allowed them to fully realize the potential of glass as a sculptural medium. Tagliapietra combines techniques that are rooted in the thousand-year-old Venetian glassmaking tradition and brings fresh and creative perspectives to art in glass with unabashed beauty and exquisite craftsmanship.

ORGANIZED BY THE MUSEUM OF GLASS IN TACOMA, WASHINGTON, THIS EXHIBITION IS SPONSORED BY REBECCA AND JACK BENAROYA, THE PAUL G. ALLEN FAMILY FOUNDATION, RUSSELL INVESTMENTS, WINDGATE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, HERITAGE BANK, AND THE BOEING COMPANY.

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[Located downtown in an architecturally-significant building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features compelling exhibitions and a robust permanent collection of modern, contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian and glass art in 28 spacious galleries and in its two outdoor sculpture gardens. The museum offers educational lectures, films and an assortment of programs and art workshops for all ages. The museum's Annenberg Theater features outstanding musical performances. The museum is open six days a week: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. with free admission from 4 – 8 p.m. sponsored by the City of Palm Springs. Admission is free to members; youths 12 and under and active-duty military and their families. Regular admission is \\$12.50 for adults; \\$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; and \\$5 for adult students. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit \[www.psmuseum.org\]\(http://www.psmuseum.org\).](#)

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Image credits:

TOP: Lino Tagliapietra, *Endeavor* (installation of 35 boats), 1998–2003, Blown glass with multicolor canes; cut, Courtesy of Lino Tagliapietra, Inc., Photo by Greg R. Miller

MIDDLE: Lino Tagliapietra, *Natoalos*, 2000, Blown glass with *mezza filigrana* canes, squeezed and folded; metal stand, Courtesy of Lino Tagliapietra, Inc., Photo by Greg R. Miller

Bottom: Lino Tagliapietra at work in his studio in Italy