

# Marignana Arte

**Alessandro Diaz de Santillana. The depth must be hidden. Where? At the surface.**

**Project room curated by Ilaria Bignotti**

**Artist: Alessandro Diaz de Santillana**

**Special event for The Venice Glass Week: Wednesday September, 22, 6 – 8 PM**

Continuing with exhibitions with experimental themes, the 'Project Room' at Marignana Arte gallery, is a perfectly designed space to welcome the artwork of Alessandro Diaz de Santillana. Over the past decades, the artist has studied the ancient techniques of the Venini glass dynasty, which was founded in Murano in 1921 by his grandfather, Paolo Venini. Alessandro Diaz de Santillana has gone on to widen and enrich his own knowledge of the complex techniques of glass work, to "forget by heart" and translate those techniques in a lyrical and conceptual language of great intensity. As the exhibition title suggests, quoting the thoughts of Hugo Von Hofmannsthal, the patina of the past merges with the present spark of Alessandro Diaz de Santillana's work, which in turn dives into and mixes with the cloudy mystery of the future. Diaz de Santillana's artwork reworks the ancient technique of flat glass window production, where, a large blown cylinder, once cooled, has its ends removed and is cut lengthwise. The cylinder is then reheated and unrolled forming a flat slab of glass on which the artist acts immediately and instinctively, working, shaping and moulding the glass into its final shape. A film is then applied on the transparent glass making the artwork dense and absorbing, inscrutable and volatile. The result is a material-forward piece that is compact and powerful, imposing itself on its surroundings – the opposite of the fragile and ethereal image of glass. By giving up on its reflective properties, Alessandro's works become symbols that seem to protect an ancient and dormant brilliance, as if they held unsolved secrets, unveiled mysteries. On the surface of every work, the eye inevitably sinks in an unsettling elsewhere, then, as soon as an image seems to appear, it's already luring us back to its deepest depths. If this is the emotional and suggestive impact of Alessandro Diaz de Santillana's artwork, the denial of the reflectance and the emergence of the lyrically abstract forms of the surfaces puts him in dialogue with the generations that, ever since the sixties, have undertaken a visual research aimed at overcoming the two-dimensionality of object-artwork. In a conceptual and metaphysical direction by investigating the mystery of vision and reputation in a moulded and involving rapport with the onlooker, the spectator, is given the responsibility – and the wonder – of the choice and the

aesthetic discovery through an unpredictable occurrence of depth on the surface. Taking this all into account, the relationship between the artwork in What Walls Want and the Project Room dedicated to Alessandro Diaz de Santillana becomes evident. Marignana Arte has once again created the opportunity for dialogue between the art and the viewer.