

## **Lorenzo Passi. *FORGED IN STEEL, BLOWN IN GLASS***

**with text by Jean Blanchaert**

Lady Luck has bestowed many blessings on Lorenzo Passi. Let me try and mention a couple. First of all, he has two inborn traits that cannot be learned. The first is great good taste: personal, new and different, and aimed at an innovative, future beauty – a beauty that doesn't exist yet, and makes a contemporary artist out of him. The second is stoic determination. This latter attitude is upheld by a rare dyad: humility and self-assuredness. Lorenzo, while a student at the Francesco Arcangeli art high school in Bologna, goes on a class field trip to the workshop of Catalan glass artist Joan Crous. There, he is thunderstruck by glass – a classic case of love at first sight. And glass recognizes Lorenzo's qualities and reciprocates his affections. The year is 2002, but the love affair lives on to this day.

After graduating from high school, Lorenzo moves to Venice and begins his apprenticeship in Murano. He works as an attendant boy and *servente* for famed glassworks such as Archimede Seguso's and Zanetti's. Here, as he observes the maestros perform their magic, he begins to *robar con l'ocio*, to "steal with one's eyes", and learns how to work with blown and solid glass. In 2009 he is awarded a two-year residency scholarship, and moves to Nuutajärvi in Finland, in order to attend the Nuutajärven Lasikoulu (Nuutayärvi Glass School). That school has all the necessary equipment, but its teaching methods are "you're on your own – sink or swim". The first year especially will be a great trial for Lorenzo. But in the freezing solitude of the school's great glassworks he will learn how to do everything by himself, including how to forge steel. In his second year in Nuutayärvi, Lorenzo begins producing his glass-sculpture pieces, where glass clings to iron and vice-versa. The Finnish maestros look on and approve. The kid has the right stuff, and has passed the test.

Back in Murano, he collaborates with maestros Oscar and Andrea Zanetti, Giovanni Nicola, and Roberto Beltrami; but in all he does there's that "Passi Style": an object of beauty not unlike a poem of very few words.

Almost all glass artists, in order to produce their works, need the assistance of a glass maestro: an artisan of excellence who will inevitably end up adding something of his own to the job at hand. Lorenzo, on the other hand, can step into a *fornace* all by himself, and bring a sculpture to completion.

His work will resemble him: forged in steel, blown in glass.

**5<sup>th</sup> September – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Opening: 5<sup>th</sup> September, 5 – 8 pm**

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**Opening hours: from Tuesday to Saturday, from 11 am to 7 pm  
On Saturday and Sunday closed, or open by appointment  
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