

Dante Marioni

Biography

Dante Marioni burst onto the international glass scene at the age of 19 with a signature style that has been described as the purest of classical forms executed in glass by an American glassblower. His amphoras, vases, and ewers are derived from Greek and Etruscan prototypes, yet they are imaginatively and sometimes whimsically reinterpreted. His impossibly elongated, sinuous shapes are made with bright and saturated contrasting colors.

Marioni's sophisticated glass objects evoke the rich tradition of classical Mediterranean pottery and bronzes, and of Marioni's training in centuries-old Venetian glassblowing techniques with some of the greatest masters in contemporary glass.

The son of American studio glass pioneer Paul Marioni, Dante Marioni was raised in a family of artists that includes two well-known uncles, painter Joseph Marioni and conceptual artist Tom Marioni.

In 1983, Marioni met Lino Tagliapietra, the legendary maestro who traveled from Murano to teach young American glassblowers at the Pilchuck Glass School in Washington state. "I took classes with Lino throughout the 1990s, and because of him, I received a very classical education in glassblowing. I never missed an opportunity to be around him."

At the age of 23, Marioni had his first sell-out gallery show in Seattle that featured his Whopper vases. This series introduced his signature, monumental forms and two-color style, and earned him a prestigious Louis Comfort Tiffany Fellowship. After two decades of experimentation, Marioni now creates a diverse range of tall, iconic forms with surface treatments such as murrine (mosaic) and reticello (air bubbles within a net pattern) in an ever-changing array of vibrant colors.

His most recent works are sculptural vessels inspired by the leaf. "Not the leaf in nature, but the stylized forms found in the decorative arts," Marioni notes. The new vessels are beguilingly intricate, inventive, fresh and tradition-breaking. While his earlier work was about "form, conceived and executed from a design point of view," his newest works focus on the exploration of color and pattern.

For Marioni, making objects is about the art of glassblowing rather than the creation of glass art, the process rather than the result. Marioni's elegant works are the brilliant record of his on-going relationship with and exploration of this material.

Selected Museum Collections

The White House Collection of American Crafts, Washington, DC

Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
The Museum of Art and Design, New York, NY
Smithsonian American Art Museum Renwick Gallery, Washington, DC
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, PA
Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA
Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga, TN
The Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, MI
Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI
Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI
Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, FL
Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, AL
Mint Museum of Craft and Design, Charlotte, NC
Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL
Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts, Suffolk VA
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA
Washington State University's Museum of Art, Pullman, WA
University of Miami's Lowe Art Museum, Miami, FL
Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

Crocker Museum of Art, Sacramento, CA
University of Missouri's Museum of Art and Archaeology, Columbia, MO
Stanford University's Iris & Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford, CA
Arizona State University's Art Museum, Tempe, AZ
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Quebec, Canada
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England
Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland
Ebeltoft Glass Museum, Ebeltoft, Denmark
National Museum of Fine Arts, Stockholm, Sweden
The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
Nijima Glass Art Center, Nijima, Japan
Koganezaki Glass Museum, Shizuoka, Japan
Toyama Glass Museum, Toyama, Japan
Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan
Liuli China Museum, Shanghai, China
New Zealand National Museum, Auckland, New Zealand
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia

Selected Museum Exhibitions

- 2016 #BeTheCurator; Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA
All About Color and Geometry: Selections From the Diana and Peter Jannetta Gift of Art; The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, PA
- 2015 Visiting Artist Collection from the Museum of Glass, National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland, Sunderland, England
Greek Vases: From Myth to Modern; Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Aichi, Japan
Fired: Glass; Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, Arvada, CO
Tradition Reinvented: Italian and American Glass Art; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA

Luminous Allure: Studio Glass from the Collection of Audrey & Norbert Gaelen; The Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State University, University Park, PA

- 2014 Australian Glass and the Pacific Northwest; Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA
Australian Glass and the Pacific Northwest; Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS
Ritual & Residue: The Art of Drink; Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY
- 2013 Links: Australian Glass and the Pacific Northwest; Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA
Some Like it Hot: Color from the Collection; Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI
Feel the Heat: Contemporary Glass Sculpture; The Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA
- 2012 The Marioni Family: Radical Experimentation in Glass and Jewelry; Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA
50 Years of Studio Glass; Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY
Studio Glass in Focus: Dialogue and Innovation; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
Global + Local: Studio and Contemporary Glass on Florida's West Coast; Museum of Fine Arts, St Petersburg, FL
The Harverty Collection of International Studio Glass: Redux; Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL.
- 2009 Dante Marioni: Form, Color, Pattern; Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, VA.
- 2008 Dante Marioni: Form, Color, Pattern; Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA
Contemporary Glass; Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, Stanford, CA
A Gathering of Contemporary Glass: Artists from Haystack and Pilchuck; Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, ME
- 2007 Dante Marioni: Form, Color, Pattern; Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo, TX
Dante Marioni: Form, Color, Pattern; Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI
- 2006 Capturing The Light: Masters of Contemporary Glass; Everhart Museum, Scranton, PA
Group Exhibition; Liuligongfang Museum and Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2004 Glass in the World Today; Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (IVSLA), Venice, Italy
- 2003 Trial by Fire: Contemporary Studio Glass; Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts, Jacksonville, FL
Fire and Form: The Art of Contemporary Art; Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach, FL

- Contemporary Directions, Glass from the Maxine and William Block Collection; Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
- 2002 Contemporary Directions, Glass from the Maxine and William Block Collection; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2000 Millennium Glass; Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft (known as Kentucky Art and Craft Foundation in 2000), Louisville, KY
- 1998 International New Glass: Venezia Aperto Vetro; Palazzo Ducale and Museo Fortuny, Venice, Italy
- Marioni/Marioni; Fresno Art Museum, Fresno, CA
- 1997 Group Exhibition; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
- Heir Apparent: Translating the Secrets of Venetian Glass; Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA
- Glass Today by American Studio Artists; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- Embracing Beauty; Huntsville Museum, Huntsville, AL
- 1995 Holding the Past: Historicism in Northwest Glass Sculpture; Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- 1993 Formed By Fire; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1992 Clearly Art: Pilchuck's Glass Legacy; Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA
- 1991 Pilchuck Glass; Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
- 1990 Vessels; American Craft Museum, New York, NY
- 1988 Young Americans; American Craft Museum, New York, NY
- Pilchuck School: The Great Northwest Glass Experiment; Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA

Awards

- 2016 Recipient of the Libenský | Brychtová Award, Pilchuck Glass School
- 2012 Elected Fellow of the American Craft Council College of Fellows, New York, NY
- 2002 First Place, Reticello Competition, Ebeltoft Museum, Denmark
- 1997 Outstanding Achievement in Glass, Urban Glass Award, New York, NY
- 1988 Young Americans Award, American Craft Museum Council, New York, NY
- 1987 The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award