

**PRESS RELEASE**

October 2024

**KUNSTPALAST GLASS COLLECTION:  
REOPENING IN NOVEMBER WITH *MYTHOS MURANO*  
from 19 November 2024**

**Following extensive modernisation, one of the world's largest glass collections will be on display again from November 2024: over 1000 exhibits from the collection of around 13,000 objects will provide an insight into the history of glass art – from antiquity to the Middle Ages and right up to contemporary glass objects. The special exhibition *Mythos Murano* (The Myth of Murano) explores the secrets behind the glass objects originating from the island in the Venetian lagoon.**

The new Kunstpalast will soon be complete: around a year after the reopening of the main collection, the final phase of renovations will be finished in November 2024 and open to the public after a four-year closure. Objects from various different eras await visitors in the newly designed rooms of the glass collection. The oldest pieces on display in the chronological presentation include Ancient Egyptian jewellery from 1350–1250 BC, whereas the most recent work *Wasserwesen* (Water Creatures) by Lea Lenhart (b. 1972) was only produced in 2024. New acquisitions such as *Nocturne #6* – a life-size dress made of glass by US artist Karen LaMonte (b. 1967) – and the glass sex toy *Cucumber* by Milan-based design firm Sunnei will be on display for the first time. Well-known highlights such as a decorative goblet by Karl Koepping, Jutta Cuny's *Narcisse Endormi* and Marta Klonowska's goat sculpture will be presented in a new light.

As in the rest of the collection display, a children's room designed by the artist and illustrator Christoph Niemann introduces the museum's youngest guests to the fragile art of glass, which is particularly fascinating due to its refraction of light and kaleidoscopic colours.

**PRESS CONTACT**

Sarah Wulbrandt  
Head of Press/Publicist  
T +49 (0)211-566 42 500  
sarah.wulbrandt@kunstpalast.de

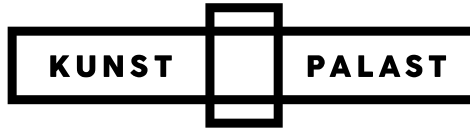
Christina Bolius  
Press Officer  
T +49 (0)211-566 42 502  
christina.bolius@kunstpalast.de

**KUNSTPALAST**

Ehrenhof 4-5  
40479 Düsseldorf  
www.kunstpalast.de

**PAGE**

1/4



## PRESS RELEASE

October 2024

### THE MYTH OF MURANO

A newly created exhibition area will now host annually changing themed presentations. The first is *Mythos Murano* (The Myth of Murano): for 700 years, the small lagoon island of Murano near Venice has been the epitome of magnificent glass art.

It is here, on this island, that ancient glassmaking traditions are preserved and the secrets of new colours and production methods are carefully guarded. The last great heyday of glassmaking took place from 1920 to 1970 and continues to inspire the legend of Murano today. The Kunstpalast houses an extensive collection from this period, with 135 outstanding exhibits on display.

From the thirteenth century, Venice became the global capital of glass art. The best raw materials were available in this port and trading metropolis, which enabled the production of new types of glass. Intense competition in a small region and over many generations resulted in an unrivalled expertise in the use of the glassmaker's pipe. After 500 years of peaks and troughs, the nineteenth century saw another revival in the art form. The workshops of the Italian lawyer and entrepreneur Antonio Salviati brought new life to glass production and Murano regained its reputation in the 1870s.

This success was only short-lived, however, as Italian glass based on historical models was no longer in keeping with contemporary tastes by around 1890. Modern trends in applied art were eventually embraced between 1921 and 1925, when a new glass company was founded by the Venetian art dealer Giacomo Cappellin and the Milanese lawyer Paolo Venini. While their products adopted forms from the past, they appeared timelessly modern.

After the Second World War, a young generation of designers emerged. With their love of experimenting with Italian design, they brought new ideas to Murano. Foreign

#### PRESS CONTACT

Sarah Wulbrandt  
Head of Press/Publicist  
T +49 (0)211-566 42 500  
sarah.wulbrandt@kunstpalast.de

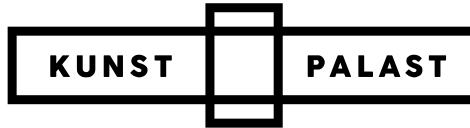
Christina Bolius  
Press Officer  
T +49 (0)211-566 42 502  
christina.bolius@kunstpalast.de

#### KUNSTPALAST

Ehrenhof 4-5  
40479 Düsseldorf  
www.kunstpalast.de

#### PAGE

2/4



## **PRESS RELEASE**

October 2024

trading houses, such as those in France and the USA, exerted considerable influence, safeguarding the continued operation of production facilities through their regular orders. Since the 1970s, making souvenirs for tourists has become increasingly significant – imitations of earlier successful models and animal figurines are still popular with this target group today.

One of the most popular products from the workshops are vases, which serve a functional purpose while being works of art in their own right. It was rare for glassmakers to create completely free artistic sculptures – two notable exceptions to this are the Venetian artists Livio Seguso and Luciano Vistosi, whose works depart from the vase's traditional vessel form. Driven by their fascination with glass as a material, artists from all over the world, such as the sculptor Tony Cragg, are now having their ideas turned into glass on Murano.

Although there are workshops that collaborate with artists in several countries, the "myth of Murano" continues to attract people to Venice.

### **THE KUNSTPALAST GLASS COLLECTION**

The glass collection at the Kunstpalast is one of the most extensive and important of its kind in the world. Incorporated in the museum's diverse holdings, it chronicles the history of the artistic use of glass. The basis of the collection originally belonged to the Kunstgewerbemuseum (Museum of Decorative Arts), which existed from 1883 to 1927, and was subsequently acquired by the Kunstpalast.

Later, glass started to develop its own independent profile compared to the other arts and crafts in the museum. In 1961, the Düsseldorf architect Helmut Hentrich began transferring his collection of around 3000 objects to the Kunstpalast through a series of annual donations. In accordance with his will, the exhibition space for the glass collection was expanded; this was first completed in 2006 and has now been extended

#### **PRESS CONTACT**

Sarah Wulbrandt  
Head of Press/Publicist  
T +49 (0)211-566 42 500  
sarah.wulbrandt@kunstpalast.de

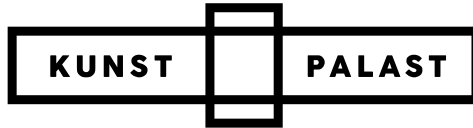
Christina Bolius  
Press Officer  
T +49 (0)211-566 42 502  
christina.bolius@kunstpalast.de

#### **KUNSTPALAST**

Ehrenhof 4-5  
40479 Düsseldorf  
www.kunstpalast.de

#### **PAGE**

3/4



## **PRESS RELEASE**

October 2024

again in 2024. Several other individuals and institutions have donated to the glass collection since its inception, including the Heidelberg industrialist Gerda Koepff, who contributed her outstanding collection of French Art Nouveau works. The recent acquisition of Frauke Thole's collection has introduced a new focus on the oeuvre of Czech sculptor Jan Fišar.

The Kunstpalast also houses the artistic estate of Jutta Cuny, a glass sculptor who influenced European glass art in the 1970s and 1980s. Featuring several major pieces and an extensive archive, this is the largest publicly owned collection of works by the artist. Every two years, the Jutta-Cuny-Franz Foundation, which is governed by the Kunstpalast, awards a prize to young artists who make significant use of glass in their work.

The strength of the Kunstpalast's glass collection lies in its comprehensiveness. From ancient and Roman glass to the ordinary and luxury glass of the Middle Ages and Art Nouveau to the present day, the collection offers an almost complete overview of the history of glass art and illustrates many of its "finest moments" with unique masterpieces.

### **PRESS CONTACT**

Sarah Wulbrandt  
Head of Press/Publicist  
T +49 (0)211-566 42 500  
sarah.wulbrandt@kunstpalast.de

Christina Bolius  
Press Officer  
T +49 (0)211-566 42 502  
christina.bolius@kunstpalast.de

### **KUNSTPALAST**

Ehrenhof 4-5  
40479 Düsseldorf  
www.kunstpalast.de

### **PAGE**

4/4