

Aristide Najean

How have you moved your artistic interest to glass?

I am a painter, oil paint mostly. I found in glass the natural prosecution of my palette, a sculpture expression of my painting. Sculpture is the natural prosecution of painting and drawing, as if the drawing comes out of the plain surface. The works I do now have all these levels: a layer of paint and a glass piece that erupts from the surface with a power source at the back to illuminate it. So, there are painting, drawing, sculpture, and glass.

You also design objects more typically associated with Murano glass, like vases and chandelier lamps above all.

Yes. But still I like experimenting. Even with "common" vases: we developed a range of unusual vases, that have a candleholder with an exclusive wax candle in it: it is called "Champagne", my personal fragrance. We have it made in Switzerland and it smells amazing.

Your table ware appears also in Enrica Rocca's book "Venice on a plate". The idea behind it is to give Murano glass tableware its original functional purpose. This is in line with your vision?

Indeed. These pineapple and apple shaped centrepieces for instance are for her skewers, for what she will prepare for the Glass Week in Venice. Very baroque, very traditional, very modern. We are also preparing some pieces for Alain Ducasse: these "mushroom lamps" are for the tables of his bateau restaurant on the Sein; this collection of plates for his new restaurant in Tokyo. It is tableware that is meant to be used.

Why have you decided to move to Venice?

For all this: this environment, this furnace, the whole building itself and the products that come out of it.... I live in Murano, not in Venice, because of the job of course, but also because it is beautiful here. A lot quieter than Venice. There are tourists, people and hustle here too, but during the day, until five in the afternoon. Then it clears out completely. When I come here at work in the morning for example, there is no one around. It's marvellous.