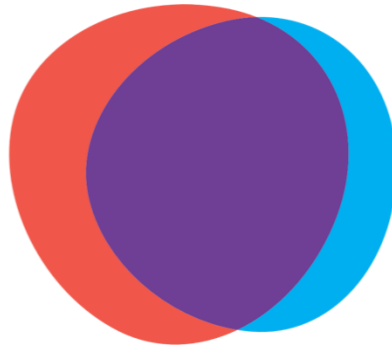


МЕЖДУНАРОДНО  
БИЕНАЛЕ НА  
СТЪКЛОТО  
—  
2023



INTERNATIONAL  
BIENNALE OF  
GLASS  
—  
2023

## **International Biennale of Glass 2023**

6 October – 3 December Sofia, Bulgaria

The highly anticipated fourth edition of the [International Biennale of Glass](#) is set to commence, building on the resounding success of its previous volumes since its inception in 2017. Firmly established as one of the preeminent art events in Bulgaria, the biennale proudly provides a global platform for artists from every corner of the world. Notably, some participants generously contribute their works to the [IBG Collection](#) of glass artworks, which are subsequently featured in exhibitions between the biennial editions.

The expanding collection of donated works of art has prompted the Art Director of the biennale, Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Valchev, and its Executive Director, Lyubomira Valcheva-Nundloll, PhD, to organize a permanent exhibition in Tryavna, Bulgaria. This initiative, set to launch imminently, aims to grant year-round accessibility to the captivating world of glass art, aligning with the project's primary mission of popularizing this art form in Bulgaria.

Under the resonant theme "TOGETHER," the biennale annually brings together established artists and emerging talents, coming both from regions with century-long traditions in glass making and from such only recently having established their spot on the glass art scene. The overarching theme is particularly relevant in the current climate, where unity stands as a beacon amidst various divisions.

For the 2023 edition, a distinguished international jury of twelve members meticulously selected 222 artists from a competitive pool of 562 applicants. The chosen artists hail from 48 countries across five continents, exemplifying the biennale's global reach. Their masterpieces will find a distinguished home in three pivotal venues across Sofia: the National Gallery Kvadrat 500, the Sredets Gallery of the Ministry of Culture, and the UniArt Gallery of New Bulgarian University. The Tianaderrah Foundation, USA, generously supports the initiatives of the IBG.

The [National Gallery](#) Kvadrat 500 will host the main IBG exhibition as in the previous edition. The expansive space, blessed with abundant natural light, provides an ideal setting for the exhibition of glass artistry. Eminent glass maestros, such as the revered Czech duo Stanislav Libenský (1921-2002) and Jaroslava Brychtová (1924-2020), mentors and friends

of Art Director Konstantin Valchev, as well as their compatriot Václav Cigler, will grace the halls of Kvadrat 500. A compelling highlight will be the participation of a selection of distinguished Dutch artists, facilitated by the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sofia, and curated by Mr. Han de Kluijver, a member of the international jury.

Furthermore, the biennale proudly welcomes once again representatives from the renowned Italian (Murano) glass art hotspot, thanks to the invaluable support of the Italian Cultural Institute in Sofia. The globally acclaimed master Lucio Bubacco, known for his extravagant rococo-inspired sculptures, and the skilled jeweler Caterina Zucchi will grace the biennale with their artistry, following a memorable joint participation of theirs in the previous edition.

Adding to the richness of the exposition, the Czech glass manufacturer Bomma will showcase the winning authors of their annual Glass Cutting World Cup ([GCWC](#)), held in Světlá nad Sázavou, Czech Republic.

Complementing the showcase at the National Gallery Kvadrat 500, a rich program of lectures featuring esteemed international guests and close affiliates of the biennale is scheduled for October 6th and 7th, offering attendees a deeper insight into the world of glass artistry. [List of lecturers](#): Jan Hein van Stiphout (Netherlands); Jenny Ritzenhoff (Netherlands); Caterina Zucchi (Italy); Markéta Váradiová & Iva Kolorenčová (Czech Republic); Andrea da Ponte (Argentina); Marta Edőcs (Hungary); Karen Browning & Jon Lewis (United Kingdom); Elenora Koh (Singapore); Cristina Ilinca (Romania); Michal Motyčka (Czech Republic); María E. Diaz de Vivar (Spain).

As part of the biennale program, the Sredets Gallery of the Ministry of Culture will host a traveling exhibition of Hungarian glass masters, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Economic Relations of Hungary. Curated by Rita Halasi, the exhibition entitled [Glassification.hu](#) will showcase abstract sculptures by ten distinguished glass designers, known for their pioneering techniques in glass transformation. The Sredets gallery will also host a presentation by Marta Edőcs on October 19, complemented by her exquisite glass jewelry and small sculptures. The exhibition will open on October 17, 2023, and run until November 3, 2023.

The third biennale location, the UniArt Gallery, collaborator of the biennale since its inception, will host a thought-provoking exhibition. The continuous involvement and representation of students and faculty from the glass atelier at New Bulgarian University underscores the profound influence of Assoc. Prof. Konstantin Valchev, the founder of the biennale, who established the glass specialty at the university. The exhibition titled *The Beginning* will signify a promising collaboration between NBU and the Anadolu University in Eskişehir, Turkey, in nurturing the next generation of glass artists. The exhibition is curated by Prof. Mustafa Ağatekin, Head of the Glass Department at Anadolu University, and Monika Naydenova, PhD, Head of the Glass Atelier at NBU and recognized as one of the 100 most promising authors in art glass, according to The New Glass magazine. The exhibition at UniArt Gallery will be open for viewing from October 31 to November 30, 2023.

The International Biennale of Glass promises an unparalleled celebration of the versatile glass medium that has the power to address contemporary challenges while unlocking new possibilities.

Complementing the exhibitions, a catalog published by the New Bulgarian University will serve as a lasting record of this showcase of glass artistry.

For those unable to attend in person, the [IBG Connect](#) virtual platform, provided by Lounjee, will offer a digital window into the highlights of the biennale, ensuring global access to the event.

Esteemed glass publication, [Vrienden van Modern Glas](#), and the platform [Objetos con vidrio](#), further bolster the reach of the 2023 International Biennale of Glass, affirming its prominence in the global glass art community.

For a detailed schedule of events and further information, please visit the official website of the International Biennale of Glass by clicking [here](#).

About the International Biennale of Glass:

The International Biennale of Glass is the largest and most professionally oriented event in Bulgaria devoted exclusively to glass art. It is a prestigious platform that celebrates the diverse expressions of glass artistry from around the world. Since its inception in 2017, it has grown to become a cornerstone event in the art world, fostering global connections and promoting the appreciation of glass as a medium of artistic expression.