



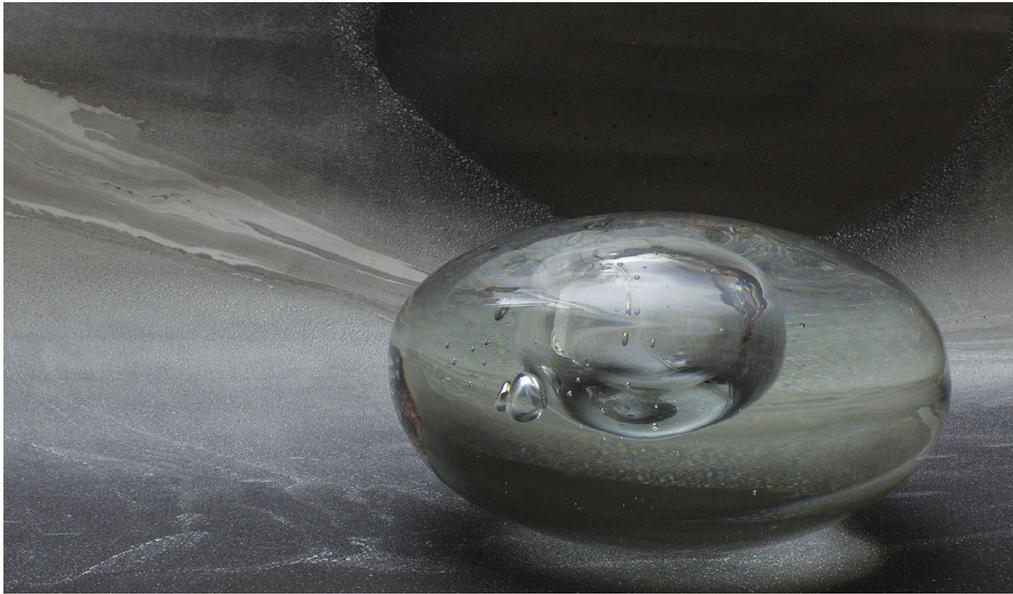
la città projects

GIORGIO VIGNA

*Acque Astrali*

1 December 2018 – 19 January 2019

Opening: 1 December at 11.30 a.m.



The exhibition is also accompanied by an essay by **Paola Marini**

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On **Saturday 1 December 2018**, Studio la Città will be opening a show of new work by Giorgio Vigna, a versatile Veronese artist who is returning to his hometown to propose an intimate and contemplative show installation in the gallery's project room.

Here, as in the Castelvecchio Museum (where in 2013 the artist was the protagonist of the show *Stati Naturali*), the dominant theme is water, the recurrent element in all the works on show: from ***Acque Astrali***, stones made from Murano glass, water-like stones that include suspended air to evoke the elsewhere, to ***Cosmografie***, works on paper made with a technique where the ink is dispersed in water to create unpredictable galaxies, and to the very recent ***Acque***, bowls of various sizes with which Vigna explores the possibilities of glass in the mystic relationship between water and fire. For over thirty years material itself has been Vigna's object for experimentation, and for Studio la Città he has created a show of great tactile tension: it is, in fact, difficult to resist the temptation to touch his works, which seem to emanate energy from their rounded and harmonious surfaces. The artist [...] chooses for his work the archaic primary quality – one full of history and strongly symbolic – of silver, copper, gold, bronze, and glass, and he uses them following ancient artisanal techniques where even the simplest gesture, such as that of soldering, becomes precious. (C. Perrella, *Cosmologies*, Eti Bonn-Muller, Hong Kong 2018).

However, with respect to the previous show in Castelvecchio, in this solo show Vigna has favoured a deeply interior, almost spiritual, relationship with the works on show which are for the most part made personally by the artist in his studio without any external contributions or "contaminations".

Another reference that plays an important part in the structure of this show is the relationship between space and time, represented metaphorically by the *Cosmografie* works which, hung on the walls of the project room, open imaginary windows onto the infinite. This concept was made very clear in a 2013 interview with Luca Massimo Barbero: [...] *My work and my research are on the boundary, the edge, between reality and imagination. Over the course of my explorations, this boundary has opened out to create a suspended space-time where time is subjective and space is imaginary. It is in this suspension that there emerge and become clear new "natural" states of otherwise impercep-*

*tible material and form: there weave together large or very small, light and heavy, solid and liquid, cold and hot micro- and macrocosms that exchange places and generate objects that, in meeting up with them, also ask for a suspension of prejudices based on the experience of what is already known.* (L.M. Barbero, Stati Naturali, Electa, Milan 2013).

## **Giorgio Vigna**

**He was born in Verona in 1955 and received his art training in Verona, Venice, Rome, and Milan.**

An original and versatile artist, for more than thirty years he has been undertaking a constant search into the transformation of material into new forms. Earth, water, fire, and air, the primary elements of nature, are explored in depth until they reveal their hidden possibilities, on the threshold between reality and imagination. This is a path that has brought him onto the international art scene and has highlighted his ability to dialogue with diverse publics, and to attract the interest of numerous museums throughout the world.

Vigna uses multiple materials and techniques: paper, ink, glass, metal are all used in a great variety of contexts and expressive areas, and are undertaken in a non-traditional way. From the *acquatipo* works on paper, where the fluidity of water guides the artist's hand to generate imaginary landscapes, to engravings where what is in play is the force of the etched plate together with the precision of the engraving technique; from the "fantastic mineralogy" works, sculptures of various sizes in the form of stones and geodes in copper, gold, and silver, to the large, segmented sound sculptures; from the jewel sculptures seen in the main international shows, to the site-specific installations such as *Fuochi di Rugiada* for the Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice, *Acquaria* placed in the Carlo Scarpa fountain at the Castelvecchio museum in Verona or *La Radura* in the Olnick-Spanu collection in Garrison, New York; and then there is glass which, finished with skill and inventiveness in the kilns of Murano, becomes in turn solid water, a flaming flower, or a cosmic sphere that imprisons a kind of meteorite, a lens on the elsewhere.

For Vigna, to make art means first of all to explore beyond established boundaries, to experiment beyond known limits, to use everything that nature makes available to the point of arriving at representing, in the most varied ways, the same primordial and strongly symbolic essence that goes right to the heart of life.

His work is to be found in such public and private collections as:

Barbier-Mueller Museum, Geneva; Civica Raccolta delle Stampe Achille Bertarelli, Castello Sforzesco, Milan; Collezione Bellini Pezzoli, Castello Sforzesco, Milan; Collezione Permanente Fondazione Raffaele Cominelli, San Felice del Benaco; Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York; Design museum, Helsinki; Diane Venet Collection, Paris; Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice; Honolulu Museum Of Art, Honolulu; Ilias Lalaounis Jewelry Museum, Athens; IMA, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Miaao, Museo Internazionale delle Arti Applicate Oggi, Turin; Museo degli Argenti, Palazzo Pitti, Florence; Museo del Vetro, Murano; Museo di Castelvecchio, Verona; MAD, Museum of Arts & Design, New York; Olnick Spanu Art Program, Garrison, New York; Olnick Spanu Collection, New York; The State Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg.

**Link for downloading the images:**

<http://studiolacitta.it/download-giorgio-vigna/>

**Exhibition period:**

1 December 2018 – 19 January 2019

Opening: 1 December at 11.30 a.m.

**Venue:**

Studio la Città, 21 Lungadige Galtarossa, 37133 Verona

**Opening hours:**

from Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**For further information and images, write to:**

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