

LINO TAGLIAPIETRA

Bio

Lino Tagliapietra is an influential Italian glass artist who is recognized throughout the world for his skills and talents. In 1934, Lino was born on the renowned glass-blowing island of Murano neighboring Venice, Italy. At the age of six, Lino was playing soccer when on his way home he peered through a door and saw the magic of the glass factory.

“We were playing with a paper ball (it was wartime) and one of the doors was open. I saw a guy blowing glass and I stopped and watched him like I was in a trance. They made beautiful things. I stayed until they finished the piece and I thought to myself, I want to do something like this in my life.”

He was mesmerized by the molten material. At the age of 11, Lino began working full time at the island’s glass furnaces and factories. He landed a glassmaking apprenticeship with Muranese glass master Archimede Seguso. He continued to work full time dedicating his life to glass-blowing. In his early 20s, Lino was regarded as a Maestro while working for some of the most highly regarded glasswork companies in Murano.

During the 1960s, Lino began expressing his own forms of creativity through design and execution with high technical and aesthetic quality. It was in the late 1970s that Lino was invited to teach at Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, WA. With no English language skills, the Maestro boarded a plane to the U.S. Despite multiple setbacks, Lino arrived at the school ready to teach eager students about ancient techniques. The trip was mutually beneficial; the students were hungry for technique and Lino was inspired by their passion and eagerness to learn.

Lino would continue to return to the school north of Seattle, WA and his teaching did not stop there. Lino would continue to share techniques around the world. He understood that he had to teach in order to preserve the Venetian traditions. This contribution helped lead the studio glass movement in the U.S. and has continued to greatly influence glass artists around the world.

From the years 1976 through 1989, Lino served as the Technical and Artistic Director of Effetre International. In 1989, Lino retired from factory work and decided to pursue independent work full-time.

Since then, Lino has become a free practicing artist of glass without any contractual binds or obligations. He is fully dedicated to creating his unique pieces that are present

in some of the most prestigious museums throughout the world. Through his continued creative experimentation and mastered skills, Lino has developed a personal style that is unmistakable and easily recognized. Both creator and executor of his works, his creativity is upheld by skills that come from a life of experience.

His technical abilities rooted in deep tradition, combined with his never-ceasing desire to innovate, creates an indescribable outcome. Now in his 80s, Lino continues to create masterpieces to this day; inspiring artists and aficionados alike. His knowledge of the material is undoubtable as you watch him seamlessly shape the glass into a fluid and living piece.

The Maestro continues to dream about what piece he will create next, “You know, for me to work is to live.”