

James Barron Art



Laura de Santillana: Luce

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Laura de Santillana

1955 - 2019



Laura de Santillana was born in Venice to a line of glass-makers; her grandfather was Paolo Venini, who founded the Venini glass company in Murano. De Santillana studied at the School of Visual Arts from 1975 to 1976 before returning to Italy to work at Venini. After designing for Venini and working for the family factory through the 1970s and 80s, de Santillana founded EOS Furnace and later began focusing on her artistic practice in the 1990s. In 1999, de Santillana made her first flat glass forms, which would become her signature works.

Laura de Santillana's work has been widely exhibited and is represented in many public collections, including the Museum of Art and Design, New York; the Corning Museum of Glass; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; and the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh.



One of de Santillana's signature flat glass forms in the process of being compressed



LAURA DE SANTILLANA

C4 (*La montagna*), 2001
hand-blown and shaped glass
17 1/4 x 13 3/4 x 1 1/2 inches
(43.8 x 34.9 x 3.8 cm)





LAURA DE SANTILLANA

C7, 2001

hand-blown compressed shaped glass
19 5/8 x 17 3/4 x 1 3/4 inches (49.8 x 45.1 x 4.4 cm)





LAURA DE SANTILLANA

ti II, 2002

hand-blown glass with silver
17 1/8 x 13 3/8 x 1 3/8 inches
(43.5 x 34 x 3.5 cm)



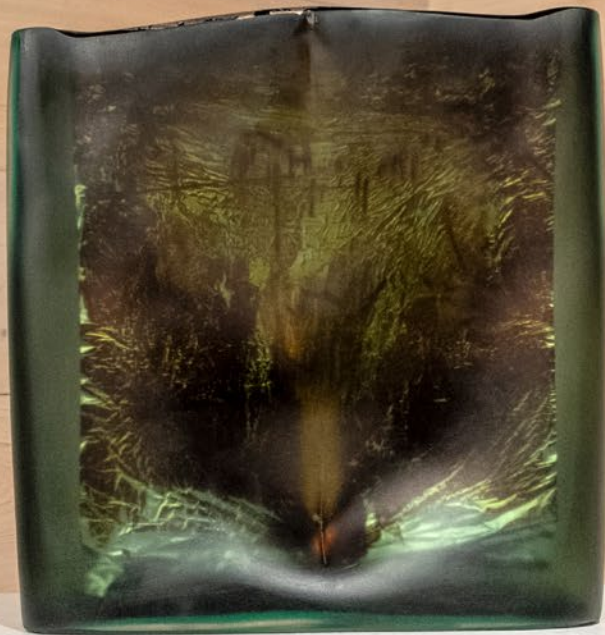


LAURA DE SANTILLANA

Untitled, 2007
hand-blown glass with silver foil inclusions
10 3/8 x 10 x 2 inches
(26.4 x 25.4 x 5.1 cm)







LAURA DE SANTILLANA

Untitled, 2006
hand-blown and shaped glass
9 1/8 x 8 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches
(23.2 x 21.6 x 4.5 cm)





“It contains nothing, but it’s still a container, a vessel. It contains color and light. I say, *look at the glass in a different way*. That’s what I am trying to say with my work.”

Laura de Santillana



LAURA DE SANTILLANA

Sacco, 2008
hand-blown and shaped glass
12 1/2 x 14 1/2 x 2 inches
(31.8 x 36.8 x 5.1 cm)



LAURA DE SANTILLANA

Quartet, 2018
hand blown compressed shaped glass

Left to right:

12 3/4 x 8 1/4 x 2 1/8 inches

11 x 8 5/8 x 1 1/2 inches

13 1/8 x 8 7/8 x 1 3/4 inches

13 1/8 x 8 1/4 x 1 3/4 inches





LAURA DE SANTILLANA

Flag XIII, 2001
hand blown compressed shaped glass
14 3/4 x 16 x 1 3/4 inches (37 x 41 x 4 cm)





Interview / Laura de Santillana

Venice, April 2017

James Barron: Tell me about your concept of “books” and “pumpkins.”

Laura de Santillana: My glass has always reminded me of books. The people at the studio ask me, “Are you coming to make books or pumpkins?” “Pumpkins” is everything blown. “Books” are the idea of squeezing the bubble, instead of letting go.

JB: You’re trying to make a void?

LdS: Yes. It starts with the breath. I like working with glass because you put air—your breath—inside the material and you close it inside. It’s the moment between inhaling and exhaling. By trapping air inside, some interesting things happen in the process. The accidents are written inside the piece.

JB: And you accept the accidents?

LdS: Yes, you do something with the accidents. It’s controlled chance.

JB: Tell me about your color.

LdS: When I work with two colors, one is always harder. The harder color pulls, and then you get the softer one, which makes the line.

JB: What’s your favorite time of day?

LdS: I like to work late at night, two to four in the morning. It’s a time of suspension. It’s a moment of transition. I love to go to Murano at six AM by boat, in the morning light. The energy is fantastic.

JB: There’s a sense of illusion in Venice. The echoes, the light refracting on walls...

LdS: My work is about refracted light, low water and the horizon line. There is a very old technique, incalmo, which is the joining of two pieces. When you have incalmo on a round form, you don't see much. When you bring together two walls, then you get things happening. You get an ellipse, or it doubles up, or the rim is folded inside and you get double color. All these things you only see because you are bringing the two walls together.

JB: This work is the culmination of a lifetime of working with glass. It's in your heritage. In a way, you're crushing a portion of history. Instead of being utilitarian, your work is nonfunctional.

LdS: It contains nothing, but it's still a container, a vessel. It contains color and light. I say, look at the glass in a different way. That's what I am trying to say with my work.



Laura de Santillana / Selected Public Collections



Untitled, 2002

hand blown compressed shaped glass and silver leaf
12 1/4 x 10 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches

Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Given anonymously



Cobalto-Siena-Cobalto, 2001

glass
16 3/4 x 13 1/2 x 2 1/8 inches

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Museum purchase funded by various donors

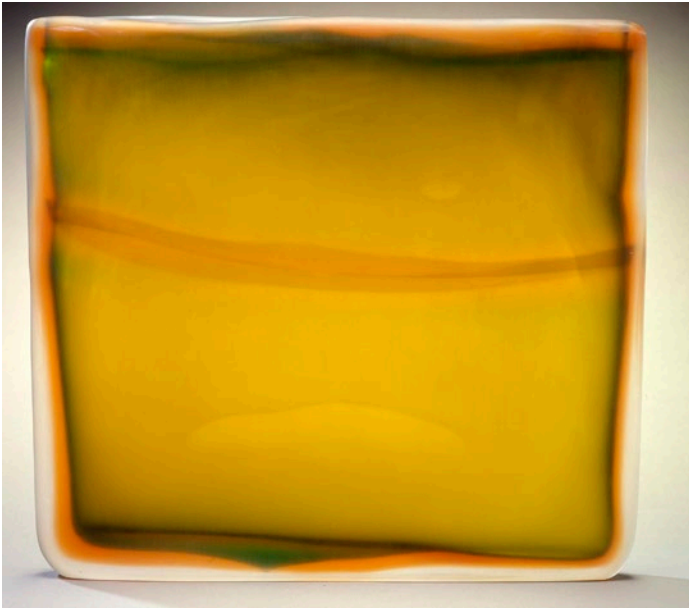


Senza Titolo (Untitled), 2005

hand blown glass, silver foil, wax, cast bronze, plaster
19 x 17 x 2 3/4 inches (each)

Museum of Arts and Design, New York
Purchase with Collections Committee funds

Laura de Santillana / Selected Public Collections



Untitled (Amber), 2001
glass, blown and sanded
13 1/4 x 14 x 1 1/2 inches

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William Block



Cristallo e Bronzo (Crystal and Bronze) More Info, 2007
glass and bronze
17 3/4 x 25 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches

Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY



Sun Chariot, 2002
glass
16 1/4 x 18 3/4 x 2 1/4 inches

Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2023 *Moira Dryer and Laura de Santillana: Air and Light*, James Barron Art, South Kent, CT
- 2021 *Meditation*, James Barron Art, South Kent, CT
- 2018 *In This Light*, Galleri Glas, Stockholm
Jeannette Montgomery Barron and Laura de Santillana: Mirrors and Glass, James Barron Art, Kent, CT
- 2017 *Ciel Terrestre*, Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Bruxelles
- 2016 *Laura de Santillana*, Stefan Vogdt/Galerie der Moderne, Munich
Sleeves, Caterina Tognon, Venezia
I fedeli, Studio Museo F. Messina, Chiesa di S. Sisto, Milano
- 2015 *Laura de Santillana*, O cha dogu, Ippodo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 *Tokyo-ga*, Ippodo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 *Big Flats*, Galerie L'Arc en Seine, Paris, France
- 2012 *Laura de Santillana Meteors*, David Richard Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, USA
- 2011 *Grands Transparents*, Galerie L'Arc en Seine, Paris, France
Liquid Glass, Traver Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2010 *Laura de Santillana*, Prague Festival, Istituto di Cultura Italiano, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2009 *Sassi*, Galerie L'Arc en Seine, Paris, France
- 2008 *Laura de Santillana*, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2007 *Khadi*, Galleria Marina Barovier, Venice, Italy
- 2006 *Bodhis*, Galerie L'Arc en Seine, Paris, France
Bodhis, Barry Friedman Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2005 *New Work*, Sanske Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2004 *Partitions*, Galerie L'Arc en Seine, Paris, France
New Work, Elliott Brown Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2002 *Titan*, Barry Friedman Gallery, New York, NY, USA
OS, OR, Galerie L'Arc en Seine, Paris, France
- 2001 *Laura de Santillana Works*, Museo Correr, Venice, Italy
Laura de Santillana Works, Barry Friedman Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Metals, Elliott Brown Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA
- 1999 *Laura de Santillana*, Galerie L'Arc en Seine, Paris, France
Laura de Santillana, New Work, Elliott Brown Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA
Laura de Santillana, Sanske Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1998 *Laura de Santillana*, seisensi, Tryangle Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Cigars smoker's dream, D. Johns Contemporary, London, UK
Mountains, Elliott Brown Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA
Laura de Santillana, Sanske Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1996 *Laura de Santillana*, Studio d'Arte Barnabò, Venice, Italy

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2016 *Fired Up: Women in Glass*, Museum of Art, Toledo
Fired Up: Women in Glass, Mint Museum, Charlotte
- 2015 Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France
- 2014 *I Santillana*, MAK, Austrian Museum for Applied Arts/Contemporary Art, Vienna, Austria
- 2013 *Playing with Fire, 50 Years of Contemporary Glass*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA
- 2012 *Scapes*, MOG, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA, USA
- 2011 *Venice. 3 Visions in Glass*, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France
Venice. 3 Visions in Glass, Glass Museet, Ebeltoft, Denmark

Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 2011 Linde Wing for Contemporary Art Event, MFA, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, USA
 2010 *Venice. 3 Visions in Glass*, Nelson Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO, USA
Venice. 3 Visions in Glass, Naples Museum of Art, Naples, FL, USA
 2007 *Viva Vetro! Glass Alive! Venice and America*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
 2006 *Glass: Material Matters*, LACMA, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA
 2003 *Glass from the Olnick Spanu Collection*, The Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA, USA
 2002 *Contemporary currents: Glass from William and Maxine Block*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA,
Glassway Le stanze del vetro, Museo Archeologico, Aosta, Italy
Fire and Form: The Art of Contemporary Glass, The Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach, FL, USA
 2000 *Form and Content*, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, USA
Venetian Glass, American Craft Museum, New York, NY, USA
 1996 *Venezia Aperto Vetro*, Museo Correr, Venice, Italy
New Design in Glass, Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf, Germany
 1994 *Italy, Italy Masterworks of Italian Design 1960-1994*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, USA
 1985 *Art du Verre*, Musée de Rouen, Rouen, France
 1979 *New Glass: A Worldwide Survey*, The Corning Museum of Glass, New York, NY, USA
 traveled to Toledo Museum of Art; Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian, Washington; Metropolitan
 Museum of Art, New York; Fine Arts Museum, San Francisco; Victoria and Albert Museum,
 London; and Musée des arts décoratifs, Paris from 1979 through 1982

Public Collections

Museo Vetrario di Murano, Venice, Italy
 The Corning Museum of Glass, New York, NY, USA
 Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
 Metropolitan Museum of Arts, New York, NY, USA
 Saint Louis Museum of Fine Arts, St Louis, MO, USA
 Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York, NY, USA
 Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, USA
 Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, USA
 The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, USA
 Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
 Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
 MUDAC, Lausanne, Switzerland
 MAD, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA
 Museu de Arte de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
 Musée des arts décoratifs, Paris, France
 Mingei International Museum, San Diego, CA, USA
 Kunstmuseum im Ehrenhof, Düsseldorf, Germany
 Kunstsammlungen der Veste Coburg, Coburg, Germany
 Ernsting Stiftung, Alter Hof Herding Museum, Coesfeld-Lette, Germany
 Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany Neue Sammlung, Munich, Germany
 IMA, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA
 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, USA
 Alexander Tutsek Stiftung, Munich
 Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, USA