

# VENICEPROJECTS

**GLASSTRESS BEIRUT / 16.07 > 02.09.12**

**OPENING 16TH JULY 2012 FROM 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM**

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY THE ARTIST MARYA KAZOUN ON OPENING NIGHT

BEIRUT EXHIBITION CENTER (BEC)

149, SAAD ZAGHLOUL STREET / BEIRUT 2012 7305, LEBANON

The Glasstress project offers a comprehensive analytical and critical view that looks beyond the boundaries of glass, a material that until now has been imprisoned by clichés and confined to limited scopes and uses. The project was conceived by **Adriano Berengo**, a Venetian cultural entrepreneur and the founder of **Berengo Studio 1989** and **Venice Projects**, endowing Murano glass with a new and innovative image. Through this ambitious project, glass has been freed from the Venetian tradition of decoration and functionality, and has become a dynamic material used to create contemporary art.

To achieve this objective, Berengo Studio regularly invites established and emerging artists to work alongside master glassmakers, encouraging them to interpret their works in glass. Over the last twenty years, more than 140 artists from around the world have come and worked at the Berengo furnace, making their contributions to the realization of this ambitious project.

Thanks to this uniqueness, Glasstress debuted in 2009 as a collateral event of the **53rd Venice Biennale of Art**; it returned in 2011 for the **54th Venice Biennale**. Following up on these great successes, Glasstress has become a traveling event hosted by such major international museums as the **Millesgården Museum** in Stockholm, the **Latvian National Museum of Art - Rīgas Birža**, and at New York's **Museum of Arts and Design (MAD)** in February 2012.

On May 31st, 2012, **Philippe de Montebello**, the former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, introduced, with the following words, the Glasstress New York exhibition to the American TV audience of NYC-ARTS Primetime: "For hundreds of years, glass has been viewed by some as simply a decorative or functional medium, Glasstress New York on view at the Museum of Arts and Design shatters those notions. Here you will see dynamic new glass works from both established and emerging artists, architects and designers from around the world."

Glass has now officially entered the world of contemporary art owing to the contribution of Glasstress.

Glasstress is now arriving in Lebanon, a country whose past is indelibly linked to the use and spread of glass in the Mediterranean basin. The Lebanese artists **Marya Kazoun** and **Nabil Nahas** have been invited to create new installations for Glasstress Beirut that will dialogue with works by the prominent international artists invited for the first time to the **Beirut Exhibition Center (BEC)**:

Pieke Bergmans, Joost van Bleiswijk, Sergio Bovenga, Soyeon Cho, Kiki van Eijk, El Ultimo Grito, Jan Fabre, Josepha Gasch-Muche, Kendall Geers, Jaime Hayon, Luke Jerram, Michael Joo, Marta Klonowska, Hye Rim Lee, Tomáš Libertíny, Atelier Van Lieshout, Massimo Lunardon, Javier Pérez, Jaume Plensa, Antonio Riello, Silvano Rubino, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Andrea Salvador, Thomas Schütte, Joyce Scott, Koen Vanmechelen, Fred Wilson, and Zhang Huan.

This opportunity represents an important beginning for what is hoped to be a lasting exchange with the Arab world, showing how tradition and the past can create a fertile discourse with the present by bringing together seemingly distant cultures.

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## **Catalogue**

Glasstress Beirut will be accompanied  
by a fully illustrated catalogue  
**Info** [press@glasstress.org](mailto:press@glasstress.org)

## **Glasstress Beirut**

Open daily from 11am to 8 pm

## **Organized by**

Beirut Exhibition Center (BEC)  
SOLIDERE and Venice Projects  
Berengo Studio 1989

## **Visit**

[www.glasstress.org](http://www.glasstress.org)  
[www.veniceprojects.com](http://www.veniceprojects.com)  
[www.berengo.com](http://www.berengo.com)

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