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DANTE MARIONI Twelve iconic works in glass

31 October – 28 November 2020
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Messums Harrogate is delighted to welcome the internationally recognised pioneering glass artist Dante Marioni to its James Street gallery this November with a presentation of twelve new and iconic works. The gallery will be open from 10am – 5pm Thursday to Saturday. This show runs alongside an exhibition of abstract drawings by Northumberland artist Charles Poulsen. Both exhibitions demonstrate Messums commitment to showcasing the best of contemporary art and craft to art lovers and collectors in the north of England.

Marioni's signature style has been described as the purest of classical forms executed in glass by an American glassblower. His amphoras, vases, and ewers draw inspiration from Greek and Etruscan prototypes. As the world's leading reticello glass artist - an Italian technique of trapping bubbles of air within a lattice pattern – this exhibition presents some of the most desirable objects ever made in glass.

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The son of American studio glass pioneer Paul Marioni, Dante was raised in a family of artists that also includes two well-known uncles, painter Joseph Marioni and conceptual artist Tom Marioni. Dante first held a blowpipe at the age of nine. By the time he was 15, he was working after school at one of the first cooperative hotshops and showrooms, The Glass Eye, in Seattle Washington. Although he loved glassblowing, making production studio glass felt limiting.

“The prevailing aesthetic [in American studio glass in the 1970s] was loose and free-form” he observed, “I personally had no interest in that.” Around the same time, he met up with Benjamin Moore, another

studio glass pioneer, and watched Moore make a perfectly symmetrical glass form inspired by Venetian glass. It had a dramatic and lasting effect on Marioni, who had not previously seen this type of glassblowing.

Moore soon became a great mentor and friend. “I worked with Benny any chance I got and still use his studio to this day to make some of my really large pieces,” Dante says. He also studied with other well-known studio glass pioneers, such as Fritz Dreisbach and Richard Marquis, who is widely recognised for his unique interpretations of Venetian decorative techniques. In 1983, Moore introduced Dante to Lino Tagliapietra, the legendary maestro who travelled from Murano to teach young American glassblowers at the Pilchuck Glass School in Washington state. “I took classes with Lino throughout the 1990s, and because of him, I received a very classical education in glassblowing. I never missed an opportunity to be around him.

After two decades of experimentation, Dante now creates a diverse range of tall, iconic forms with surface treatments such as murrine (mosaic) and reticello (air bubbles within a net pattern) in an ever-changing array of vibrant colours.

His work is in public collections worldwide including the V&A, London; New Zealand National Museum, Auckland; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; National Museum of Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden; Japanese National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan; American Museum of Art and Design, New York, The White House collection, Washington.

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Gallery owner Johnny Messum says, “ I am delighted to be introducing Dante Marioni’s breathtakingly skilled glasswork to our visitors in Yorkshire, a county with a vibrant arts scene. We look forward to bringing his artwork to the attention of new audiences.”

Notes to editors:

Messums Harrogate opened in early July 2020 in 4-6 James Street. The third Messums gallery to open in England, it hosts a rolling programme of exhibitions together with accompanying talks and events mirroring the highly successful programmes on offer in Messums Wiltshire and Messums London.

Messums Wiltshire is a leading multi-purpose gallery and arts centre set inside a restored thirteenth-century tithe barn and surrounding buildings with exhibition space, sculpture garden and restaurant.

Messums London is a refurbished 1950’s gallery on Cork Street where the family have had a gallery presence since 1992. Messums offers artists and collectors a unique environment to experience and engage with creative endeavour across multiple artforms.

A comprehensive list of past and future exhibitions can be found on our websites.

Messums Wiltshire and London represents the Estates of Henry Lamb, Brian Taylor, and Albert Paley.

For more information and for high resolution images please contact.....

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