

# HUFFPOST ARTS & CULTURE

## “Glasstress New York: New Art from the Venice Biennales” Presents The Spirit Of A Challenging New Medium

February 28, 2012

Though you may think the realm of glass is limited to Cinderella’s slipper, the vessel for your wine, and Blondie’s ex-beau’s heart, the material actually has a 50-year history as an art medium. It is a stunning material, as it is physically transparent and conceptually opaque.

In the past many artists have explored the limits of this natural (and affordable!) gem, yet its contemporary presence was lacking. That is, until Italian entrepreneur Adriano Berengo opened a glass studio in Venice in 1998 and then “Glass Projects,” an exhibition space, in 2009.

The exhibition “Glasstress New York” will show glass works that were featured in the Venice Biennial in 2009 and 2011. The collection dazzles in its depictions of glass’ possibilities. Michael Joo’s “Expanded Access” playfully inserts glass where it doesn’t belong, building restricting ‘velvet ropes’ out of glass. Others like Mike and Doug Starn’s untitled piece gives you a glass explosion, sort of like fine art Pick Up Sticks mid-drop.

The show will feature work from Barbara Bloom, Jan Fabre, Jaime Hayon, Luke Jerram, Michael Joo, Marya Kazoun, Marta Klonowska, Tomas Libertiny, Alessandro Mendini, Mike and Doug Starn, Vik Muniz, Tony Oursler, Javier Perez, Jaume Plensa, Silvano Rubino, Thomas Schutte, Joyce Scott, Kiki Smith, Yutaka Sone, Patricia Urquiola and Ursula von Rydingsvard. The objects d’art will be on view until June 10 at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York.

What do you think, readers? Do these pieces leave you wanting more?