

Excellence at its best

**Cassina and Venini present *Colourdisc*
a first project by Bethan Laura Wood**

The holistic approach of 'The Cassina Perspective' allows accessories to be **developed with specialised, high-end partners to complete the various areas of the home.**

Since 1921, Venini has been making authentic hand-made blown glass masterpieces in its furnaces in Murano in Venice. For the Cassina 2020 Collection, the English designer Bethan Laura Wood has interpreted **the perfect synthesis between centenary art and contemporary design with the *Colourdisc* duo of vases**, a fruit bowl and cylindrical flower vase, produced by Venini.

A series of **coloured compositions of discs and diamonds in Murano glass**, casted in metal forms during production, are placed around a brass volume, available in two light finishes, to create a graphic dialogue between the vase and its contents. Inside the structure it is possible to insert an optional blown glass vase in amber or horizon blue to offer an additional pool of colour to the object while also allowing it to be more easily filled with water for flowers.

Each decorative glass shape combines two points of colour from the Venini Archive that, through their overlapping, create a third shade. This coloured lens, with a dedicated combination for each size, filters the contents of the vase and, at the same time, creates a frame that highlights it. When the discs are hit by sunlight or evening spotlights, colours reflect on the vase to create a **kaleidoscopic effect**.

The glass forms are fixed to the structure's body with two brass pins - like those used for the structure of the *Olimpino* table by Ico Parisi - drawing an abstract shape of the traditional 1960s disc chandeliers.

"It is very important for Cassina to collaborate with the most qualified partners in order to be able to develop accessories that can complete our offer for the home. Working with an excellence like Venini demonstrates how two Italian companies can collaborate to promote creativity on an international level."

Luca Fusco - CEO of Cassina

"We are very proud of the collaboration with Cassina which gives us the opportunity, once again, to demonstrate VENINI's ability to dialogue with the design world. It was a great pleasure to work with such a talented designer like Bethan Laura Wood and we are delighted to have produced this project with Cassina as we share the same values of excellence, uniqueness and Italian production: key elements of our DNA that we diffuse throughout the world through our products."

Silvia Damiani – President of VENINI and Vicepresident of the DAMIANI Group

"A duo of vases is the colourful outcome of my first collaboration with Cassina and Venini. The pieces play with both the physical weight and harmonics of colour for a dramatic balancing act with satellites of glass arrayed round its light core."

Bethan Laura Wood



Colourdisc vases by Bethan Laura Wood - Cassina I Contemporanei Collection with Venini

Materials:

liquid painted brass structure (a hidden counterweight is screwed to the base under which two felt pads are applied); decorative shapes and internal vase in Murano glass; brass pins.

Measurements:

low vase	40x39xh.24 Ø30cm
optional internal low vase	h.9 Ø27cm
medium vase	28x24xh.33 Ø20cm
optional internal medium vase	h.16 Ø18cm

VENINI: a story, an artistic excellence, a typically Italian passion

Founded in 1921 by Paolo Venini, a Milanese lawyer, and Giacomo Cappellin, a Venetian antiques dealer, Venini SpA, then Cappellin, Venini & C., would become a model of excellence in the world of artistic glass, laying the foundations for a stylistic identity that still distinguishes it today. Over the years, Venini has entered into important partnerships with such artists as Napoleone Martinuzzi, Carlo Scarpa, and Vittorio Zecchin and, in the postwar period, with Gio Ponti, Fulvio Bianconi, Tapio Wirkkala, and Mimmo Rotella, not to mention the contribution of contemporary designers and architects the likes of Peter Marino, Ron Arad, Tadao Ando, Gae Aulenti, Doriana e Massimiliano Fuksas, Ettore Sottsass, Alessandro Mendini, Gaetano Pesce, Emmanuel Babled, Francesco Lucchese, Monica Guggisberg, Philip Baldwin, Michela Cattai, Hani Rashid, Lise Anne Couture, Benjamin Moore Dan Dailey, Giorgio Vigna and many others. The forms and style of the original artistic production are thus continuously refreshed. With its iconic projects and new creations, the glassworks presents its works in two collections: Art Glass brings together a series of extraordinary sculptural vases and objects for interior decoration; Art Light features chandeliers and important lighting installations for large public or private spaces.

Venini boasts an unmatched colour palette that, together with the glassworking techniques, is part of a cultural heritage handed down from generation to generation. The Venini furnace is, in fact, the only one capable of producing 125 colours of glass, the fruit of a long and passionate search for formulae yielding new combinations. The structure is organised to operate with 14 ovens fired up at once, making available to the artists and master glassmakers a colour palette that has no equal.

VENINI has always created objects with a timeless design that are destined to appreciate in value. Thanks to the excellence of quality, the high artistic content, and the manufacturing value intrinsic to each piece, the hammer prices of VENINI glassware reach record figures at major auctions; in fact, the highest price ever paid for a Murano art object was for a VENINI piece, "La Sentinella di Venezia" signed by Thomas Stearns in 1962, which fetched 737 thousand dollars.

Creations bearing the Venini signature have become part of the permanent collections of museums of such calibre as the Metropolitan Museum and MoMA in New York, the Fondation Cartier in Paris, and the Victoria and Albert

Museum in London. Venini's own museum contains 45,000 drawings, 10,000 vintage photos and 4,000 works of art, making it the most valuable historical archive of modern and contemporary glass art.

The Damiani family (owners of the eponymous international luxury jewellery brand), holds a controlling interest in Venini S.p.A., and their aim is to promote one of Italy's most authentically excellent brands.

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The Cassina Perspective

Founded in Meda by Cesare and Umberto Cassina in 1927, Cassina launched industrial design in Italy during the 50's by taking a completely new approach which saw a shift from handcraftsmanship to serial production.

Cassina was pioneering in the way that it showed a striking inclination for research and innovation, combining technological skill with traditional craftsmanship. For the first time important architects and designers were involved and encouraged to envision new designs to be transformed into projects, a characteristic that still distinguishes the company.

In 1964 the Cassina I Maestri Collection began with the acquisition of the exclusive worldwide rights to serially produce four models designed by Le Corbusier (who was alive at the time), Pierre Jeanneret and Charlotte Perriand. Over the following years this collection has brought together some of the most iconic furniture by the greatest 20th Century architects of modern classics with the aim of disseminating their cultural values. These re-editions are authentic and attentive reconstructions studied to respect the original models, working in close collaboration with the authors' heirs and official foundations.

Many renowned Italian and international designers and architects have collaborated with the company including: Vico Magistretti, Gio Ponti, Mario Bellini, Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, Rodolfo Dordoni, Piero Lissoni, Gaetano Pesce and Philippe Starck. In 2015 the Spanish architect and designer Patricia Urquiola was nominated Art Director of Cassina.

Today 'The Cassina Perspective' unites the company's values to express the best contemporary design - avant-gardism, authenticity, excellence and the combination of technological capacity with skilled handcraftsmanship – and offers a broad panorama of configurations for the home where innovative products and Modern icons come together to create complete and, above all, welcoming environments, dialoguing according to a unique design code based on excellence.

cassina.com

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