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Judi Harvest Propagation: Bees + Seeds

During this year's Venice Art Biennale, artist Judi Harvest displays glass sculpture, painting and video in *PROPAGATION: Bees + Seeds*, part of *Beauty and the Beast*, an exhibition in Palazzo Tiepolo Passi, 2774 San Polo. The show will debut May 10, 2017 and conclude Nov. 26, 2017.

Harvest created over 150 different glass seeds, plants and flowers for the exhibition. "I created these seed and plant works in Murano glass to further emphasize the sense of the fragility of life and the search for beauty that underlies all my work." *PROPAGATION* is a rumination on seeds, bee pollination and plants as metaphors for life and renewal. Most of the seeds are rendered in luscious colored Venetian glass, while clear glass "frozen" seeds are inspired by seed banks, like the world's largest, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway.

For *PROPAGATION*, Harvest worked with seven Murano glass masters, employing three ancient and challenging Murano glass techniques: *cera persa* (lost wax), *lume* (flame work), and *soffiato* (blown). The Murano glass artists community and their complex glass art is an elemental part of Harvest's work. But the Murano glass factory that she worked in for over 28 years, owned by Giorgio Giuman and his family, has gone from employing 75 people to a mere four. She began to see parallels between the disappearing bees, victims of Colony Collapse Disorder, and the declining populations of Murano islanders and glass-making families. Her work began to focus on the frailness and strengths of the two communities, making connections between the Murano glass artists and the bees. The exhibition includes a selection of this work.

Not all artists are created equal, and not all artists are equally creative. Judi Harvest has made creativity in both life and art her goal and achievement. — Barbara Rose, art historian

For over forty years, Harvest has lived, worked and exhibited her art in Venice, which she saw for the first time in 1973 while studying at the Tyler School of Art in Rome. Since 1987 she has had 15 exhibitions in Venice, including 2015's *Room of Dreams* (part of *Dialogue of Fire*) and her massive 2013 solo exhibition *DENATURED: Honeybees + Murano*, for which she created 100 amber-toned glass *Honey Vessels*, other honeybee-related paintings and sculptures, and the permanent installation *Honey Garden*, a bee-friendly garden which has transformed the grounds of Giuman's glass factory. The garden is home to six healthy honeybee hives which produce the only Murano honey.

Accompanying the exhibition is a 64-page catalog, texts by art historian Barbara Rose and writer/journalist Rocky Casale.

A conference will be held in September, 2017 at Palazzo Tiepolo Passi involving Professors of science and environmental studies from Padova, Glass Masters from Murano and local Beekeepers from the Veneto.

For a visit to the *Honey Garden* on the island of Murano contact Judi Harvest (see below).

Press photos available here: <http://bit.ly/propagationbees>
For more information visit judiharvest.com.

Exhibition title: *Beauty and the Beast*
May 10 - Nov. 26, 2017
Palazzo Tiepolo Passi
2774 San Polo, Venice, Italy

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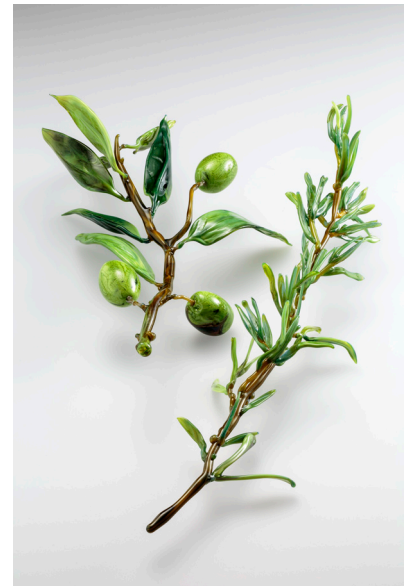
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Pomegranate, 2017
Murano glass, soffiato, 13 x 10 x 10 cm
Pomegranate Seeds, 2017
Murano glass, lume, 1.3 x 1 x 0.5 cm each



Mango Seed, 2017
Murano glass, cera persa, approx. 12 x 4.5 x 3.5 cm
Cloves, 2017
Murano glass, lume, approx. 1.5 x 0.5 x 0.5 cm



Olive Branch, 2017
Murano glass, lume, 15.5 x 10 x 5.5 cm
Rosemary Branch, 2017
Murano glass, lume, 21 x 5 x 3 cm



Frozen Honeycomb I, 2017
Murano glass, cera persa, cristallo, 14 x 10 x 3 cm
Frozen Honeycomb II, 2017
Murano glass, cera persa, cristallo, 13 x 5 x 3 cm
Frozen Bees, 2017
Murano glass, lume, cristallo, approx. 2.5 x 2 x 1.7 cm

Page 1: *Seed Universe*, 2017,
Murano glass, *cera persa*, *lume*,
and *soffiato*, various dimensions.
Photo by Mathew Klein