
Jean Blanchaert is a Milan-based gallerist, curator, and art critic with more than three decades of experience in contemporary art and high craftsmanship. The Blanchaert Gallery in Milan, founded in 1957 by his mother Silvia, participated in dozens of exhibitions not only in Italy but also in Switzerland (Cultura Basel 2002), England (COLLECT, Victoria & Albert Museum 2005, 2006), France, Belgium, and Turkey.

His curatorial practice focuses on material-based research and the dialogue between artistic tradition and contemporary innovation. Blanchaert has curated exhibitions for cultural institutions and foundations, with particular attention to glass art and applied arts within a contemporary context.

He has held key advisory and leadership roles for international cultural organizations and served on scientific and selection committees. His work has contributed significantly to the international recognition of contemporary craftsmanship, including his role as ambassador of Venetian glass at the Shanghai World Expo.

Alongside his curatorial and institutional activities, Blanchaert maintains an artistic practice as an illustrator, calligrapher, and glass sculptor. Drawing—particularly ink drawing—has been a constant passion of his for at least forty years.

Since **2005**, in collaboration with Philippe Daverio (1949-2020), Jean Blanchaert curated *13x17. Mille artisti per un'indagine eccentrica sull'arte in Italia*, a traveling exhibition of 1600 works by artists working in Italy (a thousand of which are collected in a Rizzoli catalogue).

In addition, since 2000, he has collaborated with Philippe Daverio on the RAI 3 television program *Passepartout*; he has participated in 55 programs dedicated to Italian art, in addition to those produced in Switzerland, Germany, Israel, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Senegal, Cuba, China, Cyprus, and Portugal.

Curator / Gallerist

1992

The Blanchaert Gallery organizes the last retrospective exhibition of the Paduan enamel artisan-artist Paolo De Poli.

1995

Murrine. Glass by Laura de Santillana.

1998

Ayala Serfaty by Aqua Creations.

1998

In collaboration with *Le Case d'Arte*, Milan.

Video: *Galleria Blanchaert Abstract (from) Mirrorsites 98* by Miltos Manetas.

1998

Fuorisalone del Mobile 1998 – *Glass*. Emmanuel Babled, Maria Grazia Rosin, Ritsue Mishima, Laura De Santillana.

1999

Pierre Gaste. *Paintings and parchments*.

2000

Le Case d'Arte, Milan.

Pasquale Leccese and Jean Blanchaert present a sculpture by Fausto Melotti.

2000

Fuorisalone del Mobile "Glass & Ceramics".

Artists: Ivan Baj, Alessandro Diaz De Santillana, Massimo Micheluzzi, Maria Grazia Rosin, Laura De Santillana, Claude Bouchard (with the participation of Artcodif, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris).

2000

An exhibition at Sant'Ambrogio: Kengiro Azuma.

2001

Giuseppe Novello privato. Albums, postcards, letters, and drawings dedicated to friends (Exhibition held on the occasion of the publication of the book *Come prima. Il meglio di Novello*, edited by Guido Vergani, Longanesi & C; opening on November 8 with contributions by Philippe Daverio and Guido Vergani).

2001

Fuorisalone del Mobile *Glass & Ceramics*.

Melvin Anderson, Anna Mari, Massimo Micheluzzi, Philip Tsiras.

Glass masters: Livio Serena, Pino Signoretto, Silvano Signoretto, Andrea Zilio, Gerry de Bastiano, Claude Bouchard (with the participation of Artcodif, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris).

2002

Participation in the CULTURA fair, Basel, Switzerland.

2003

Collaboration with Maurizio Cattelan and Paola Manfrin for an issue of *Permanent Food* magazine.

MIART 2003. Installation by Giuliano Mauri.

2004

Le Case d'Arte Project, Milan (curated by Jean Blanchaert and Pasquale Leccese).

Glass by Ritsue Mishima.

2005

MIART 2005. Installation by Shlomo Harush.

2006

COLLECT, *The International Art Fair for Contemporary Objects*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

International Contemporary Days, Istanbul.

2009

Fuorisalone 2009, *Prophets & Penitents. Confessions of a Chair* (in collaboration with DAMn° magazine).

From 2010

The gallery has taken part in 15 editions of MIA PHOTO FAIR, exhibiting works by more than 40 photographers.

2012

He was Ambassador of Venetian glass at the Shanghai EXPO, where he presented, together with Philippe Daverio, the glass installation *Open Wall – Muraglia Trasparente* by Chinese artist Shan Shan Sheng, produced by Berengo Studio.

2012

He was Secretary General and coordinator of the first edition of the *International Sculpture Prize Fondazione Henraux* in Serravezza (Carrara). Since 2014 he has been a member of the selection committee for young sculptors nominated for the prize, appointed by the Accademia dell'Altissimo.

From 2012

Jean Blanchaert has been a member of the Scientific Committee of Artex – Center for Artistic and Traditional Craftsmanship of Tuscany.

2012

As cultural consultant, he presented *Il mostro della laguna* in the Yerebatan Cistern in Istanbul, a large murrine glass sculpture made in Murano by master Nicola Moretti.

2013

Fuorisalone del Mobile, the Blanchaert Gallery presented *Lezioni di Enzo Mari*, a collection of resin objects designed by Enzo Mari and produced by Corsi Design Factory.

2013

Jean Blanchaert curated for FAI – Fondo Ambiente Italiano the exhibition *Arte Ceramica Oggi in Italia* at Villa Necchi, Milan.

2014

MIA & D Fair, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.

From 2014

He has been a consultant for the International Biennial of Power-Hammer Forging and President of the Jury of the International Power-Hammer Forging Competition held in Bienno, a medieval village in Valle Camonica (Brescia) with a millennia-old tradition in ironworking.

2014

FAI- Fondo Ambiente Italiano, curator of the exhibition *Arte del Vetro Oggi in Italia* at Villa Necchi, Milan.

Co-curator (with Anty Pansera and Viola Emaldi) of the exhibition *Grand Tour – Discovering Classical Italian Ceramics*, organized by AiCC (Italian Association of Ceramic Cities), for which he is

the scientific consultant. The first stop of this “Grand Tour” was Brussels, at the Jacques Delors Building, the seat of the Committee of the Regions at the European Parliament.

Consultant for the *International Biennial of Power-Hammer Forging* and President of the Jury of the International Power-Hammer Forging Competition in Bienna.

2015

In September 2015, at the second edition of *Révélation*s, the International Biennial of Fine Crafts at the Grand Palais in Paris, he curated the Italian section with the exhibition *Equilibri*, promoted by the Tuscany Region and produced by Artex.

2016

For FAI, he curated *Glass. Arte del Vetro Oggi* at Villa dei Vescovi in Luvigliano di Torreglia (Padua), with a Skira catalogue and the support of Fondazione Cologni, main partner of the FAI project *Manualmente*, of which these exhibitions are part.

2017

Within the framework of the first edition of *The Venice Glass Week*, Jean Blanchaert co-curated with Noah Khoshbin the exhibition *Robert Wilson in Glass*, organized by Fondazione Berengo.

He became a member of the International Promoting Committee of *Artigianato e Palazzo*, held in Florence in the seventeenth-century Corsini Garden, featuring a selection of around one hundred artisans from a wide range of crafts.

2018

He curated the *Best of Europe* room at *Homo Faber* at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini in Venice.

Together with Adriano Berengo, he curated the exhibition *Memphis – Plastic Field* at Palazzo Franchetti, Venice.

2018

He became a member of the Scientific Committee, chaired by Rosa Barovier Mentasti, of *The Venice Glass Week*, an international festival dedicated to glass art, Venice.

2019

He curated the exhibition *Riflessioni riflesse* as part of the first edition of the Parenti District during Fuorisalone 2019 at Teatro Franco Parenti, Milan.

2019

Within the exhibition *Glasstress 2019*, Fondazione Berengo, Murano, he curated the installation *Constellation* by Robert Wilson.

2019

Jean Blanchaert was co-curator (with Constance Rubini) of the exhibition *Memphis – Plastic Field* at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs et du Design in Bordeaux

2021

He was a member of the International Jury Committee of the Larnaca Biennial (Cyprus). Member of the Jury for the *European Glass Context* on the island of Bornholm (Denmark).

In recent years, his work has increasingly focused on identifying art in craftsmanship and seeking to showcase it.

As part of the *Homo Faber. Crafting a more human future* event (Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, 2018) organized by the Michelangelo Foundation, he curated, with Stefano Boeri, the *Best of Europe* exhibition, which brought together hundreds of Craft Masterpieces created by more than 150 artisan-artists from across Europe. Again for Homo Faber and again with Stefano Boeri, he was the curator of the *Next of Europe* exhibition in April **2022**.

In **2024**, he was one of the Craft Experts at the third edition of the event, *A Journey of Life*.

In October **2022**, at the invitation of Nine Fish Art Gallery in Mumbai, he was one of the relators of the *Art35 and Clay Festivals*; he presented two lectures, one on contemporary international ceramics and the other on contemporary glass.

2023

Galleria Blanchaert together with Nine Fish Art Gallery presented the works of photographer Jayesh Sharma at MIA Fair - Milano Image Art Fair, in Milan.

He curated the exhibition *Maestros del Futuro* in Seville, Andalusia (Spain) where Belgian and Spanish artisan-artists were the protagonists.

In **2024**, he was the co-curator (with Cristina Beltrami) of the exhibition "*Tony Cragg. Le forme del vetro*", organized by the FAI – Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano and the Fondazione Berengo, and presented at the Negozio Olivetti in Venice.

In June **2025** he was a member of the International Jury Committee for the Cheongju International Craft Competition, which will be held as part of the *2025 Cheongju Craft Biennale* (South Korea).

In October **2025** he curated *Water's Soul*, Jaume Plensa's exhibition in Venice, organized by the FAI – Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano and Fondazione Berengo, and presented at the Negozio Olivetti in Venice (Italy).

In November **2025** he was co-curator (with Francesca Valente) of the exhibition *Glasstress Selction:Vicenza*, organized by Berengo Studio and presented at Palazzo Thiene, Vicenza.

Glass Works

Alongside his activities as a gallery owner, editor, and curator, Jean Blanchaert is also a calligrapher and glass sculptor.

2004

In collaboration with master glassmaker Silvano Signoretto, and based on an idea by Andrée and Ruth Shammah, he created the seven blown-glass spheres for the Telecom Award.

2005

For *Trust the Forest*, he created—together with master glassmaker Silvano Signoretto and master engraver Luigi Camozzo—a pink crocodile in *vetro mastello*. The work achieved the top price at the charity auction organized by Sotheby's.

Don't Trust the Forest.

2006

For MIART, he created a pair of pink and light-blue hippopotamuses, again working alongside masters Signoretto and Camozzo.

– In collaboration with Idarica Gazzoni and masters Signoretto and Camozzo, he produced sixty glass wind turbines for the centenary of the Falck industrial plant.

– For the exhibition *Mirabilia Fiunt* (Galleria San Ludovico, Parma), he created—together with the same team—seven additional forest animals. This marked the beginning of his collaboration with Berengo Studio in Murano.

Blanchaert and his glass animals

Editorial Activity

Since 2008

Jean Blanchaert has been a regular contributor to the monthly magazine *Art e Dossier* (Giunti Editore) for which he has also published the Dossiers on Gio Ponti and Jan Fabre.

Performative Work

2015

At the Venice Biennale, Jean Blanchaert interpreted Karl Marx in *Das Kapital*, curated by Alexander Kluge, with an introduction by Stefano Boeri.

Calligrapher / Illustrator

In recent years, his drawings have been commissioned to illustrate children's books, book covers (Edizioni Ponte alle Grazie, Guanda, Nottetempo), newspapers and magazines (*Tam-Tam*, *Diario*, *Verve*, *Art e Dossier*, *Linkiesta*, *Gli Stati Generali*), as well as a wide range of cultural initiatives, including:

1998

Celebratory poster for the 25th anniversary of Teatro Franco Parenti.

2000–2007

Progetto Italia for Telecom.

2004

Utopia exhibition, Telecom Italia.

2005

Italgas Prize.

2006

Salone del Ciclo.

2006

Exhibition of his drawings at Galleria Affiche, Milan.

2007

Emozioni Italiane, Berlucchi Project, Zanotta Shop, Milan.

2007

Mai Dire Mao, Parma, with artistic direction by Gherardo Frassa.

2010

Bologna si rivela, a project curated by Philippe Daverio.

2013

Publication of the illustrated calendar *Un santo al giorno*, Rizzoli Editore.

2015

Within the initiative *Fabriano ospita*, curated by Adelaide Corbetta, he exhibited a series of drawings of saints at the Fabriano boutiques in Milan and Florence.

2017

Solo exhibition *Finalmente* at Bagni Misteriosi, Teatro Franco Parenti.

2018

Publication of *100 Giusti del Mondo* (100 Righteous Among the Nations), Rizzoli Illustrati.

2019

Illustrations for the book *Ricette e Precetti* by Miriam Camerini, Giuntina Editore.

2019

As part of a project initiated by the Basu Foundation for the Arts to promote puja street art, Jean Blanchaert took part in the Durga Puja festival in Kolkata as a writer. He exhibited his art on the city's walls and wrote some messages inspired by Bengali culture in English, Bengali, and Sanskrit.

2022

Illustrations for the book of *Quante storie!* by Luciano Bassani, (Belforte Editori).

Between **2020 and 2023**, Blanchaert participated as a consultant and a friend in the project for the realization of the grandiose sculpture in white statuary marble carved by Nicola Stagetti, depicting Yogiraj Sarkar Godariwale Shri Nand Lal Ji - Pramashwar The Infinite.

Blanchaert was also the curator of the unveiling ceremony in Pietrasanta (Italy) before the sculpture journeyed to the sacred shrine in India.

In **2024**, he published *Musica senza suono. Maestri di Murano* with Marsilio Editori, a book dedicated to today's glass masters of Murano.

