

Lino Tagliapietra Announces Retirement from the Furnace

Seattle, WA - For 75 years glass has been my life and the furnace my home. All my thoughts have been devoted to glass. Its principles have always been the foundations from which to start and its strict rules the structure of my entire life.

Today, because of my love and respect for glass, which has given me so much and that I hope I have reciprocated, I feel I must take what I think will be the hardest and most important decision of my life. I have decided to retire from manual work and from the furnace that during this long and wonderful time has gifted me with immense satisfaction, freedom of expression, incredible encounters, and ultimately pure passion for the craft.

I would like to be able to personally thank and say goodbye to all the people I have met during these 75 years, but I realize I would need another 75 years to do so... I would like to share this moment with all the boys and girls, now men and women, who have shared with me a part of this long journey. I truly hope I have taught them all something and, most of all, I hope I have passed down to them even a small part of the passion that I have always felt for glass. Passion is what always encourages us to look for something new and different in everything, it constantly presents us with new challenges and new goals to reach and does not leave room for following someone else's style. The real challenge is always and only with ourselves, with our desire to overcome another limit, to follow another horizon, and look for a new goal.

From today I want to look at new horizons and objectives. One of these will be teaching people. I have always done so but I would like to start again. I also look forward to meeting people at exhibitions, exchanging ideas, opinions, and research new projects to organize and share with the community.

"Fondazione Lino Tagliapietra," of which I am founder and president, will be the voice through which I hope to continue sharing new projects in the future, for teaching, encounters, cultural exchanges, information, and knowledge of the world of glass in all its aspects.

It is not easy for me to leave this path, but I would like to leave all of you and myself as well with this new challenge. If you have desire and look for a thin thread with which glass could weave all your life, please call me, come meet me, and ask me. I will be honored and happy to share my almost 80-year life experience with glass.

I would like to thank this beautiful country that has welcomed me and offered me the freedom of expression that I had always been looking for. I am also thankful to my country, Italy, where I have lived surrounded by infinite beauty, which will always be a part of me.

I send you all,
wherever you are,
the biggest and
warmest of hugs.

Sincerely,
Lino Tagliapietra

