

# DAVID GILL

PRESS RELEASE

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## DAVID GILL GALLERY presents **Mattia Bonetti 'Murano'**

David Gill Gallery is proud to present a new body of work by Paris-based artist Mattia Bonetti. The pieces were handmade in Murano with the artist and acknowledge the historical glass-blowing techniques of the island while pushing the possibilities of the material to their limits.

While Bonetti has worked with glass once before, at CIRVA (Centre Internatioanal de Recherche sur le Verre et les Arts Plastique), in Marseilles, under the tutelage of maestro Lino Tagliapietra, this collection is a departure for him, requiring an unprecedented level of research. Bonetti's fascination with the centuries-old process of free-blowing and the magic of turning a piece of glass into a molten mass before its transformation into a nuanced object, led him to Murano. Here, he was able to translate his detailed sketches, working closely with the island's renowned artisans.

Time spent on the Island of Glass has profoundly influenced Bonetti's practice, and the collection is imbued with the texture of the environment. His palette of green, gold, yellow, white and blue evokes watery reflections and huge skies, as well as the art and architecture of Venice. The city's chiaroscuro contrasts of light and dark are palpable in the counterbalance of lightness and heaviness inherent in blown glass.

Leaves are such a familiar Venetian motif, often found on chandeliers, Bonetti has honoured this historical design practise by enlarging leaf shapes and using them on mirrors and sconces. The classical forms and Grecian decorations of the works are a celebrated feature of Bonetti's repertoire, but they also reference the neoclassicism introduced to the Venetian Republic in the 1730s by Alessandro Pompei.

For an artist as versatile as Bonetti, a single aesthetic is never enough and he brings a contemporary element to the collection with his 'Grate' pieces, Bonetti has taken small sticks of glass, classic Murano elements, and criss-crossed them into a modern, geometric design.

**For further press information please contact:**  
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Mattia Bonetti, Mirror 'Flying Leaves', 2020



Mattia Bonetti, Mirror and Console 'Grate', 2020

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### MATTIA BONETTI BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1952 in Lugano, Switzerland, Mattia Bonetti studied textile design at the Centro Scolastico per l'Industria Artistica, before moving to Paris in 1972. There, he worked as a stylist and photographer, shooting hand-made



miniature interiors which kick-started his love of furniture design. He met Elizabeth Garouste in 1987 and they worked as a design partnership for several years, first exhibiting with David Gill in 1988, in London.

Bonetti showed his inaugural solo collection in 2004, at David Gill Gallery, and his 30-year working relationship with Gill is as exciting, creative and fruitful as ever. Key moments in their collaboration include the pieces Grotto, Atlantis and Bubblegum, using materials such as patinated bronze, marble and acrylic.

Mattia Bonetti works are collected by numerous public institutions, including the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

In June 2015 David Gill Gallery hosted the UK launch of a two volume monograph on Bonetti by Jacqueline du Pasquier and Jean Jacques Wattel, published by Editions Louvres Victoire.

Mattia Bonetti, Table Lamp 'Murano', 2020

### DAVID GILL BIOGRAPHY

Widely acclaimed as the pioneer of collectable design, David Gill inaugurated his first gallery on London's Fulham Road in 1987. From the opening he exhibited work by world-renowned artists such as Jean Cocteau, Giacometti, Yves Klein and Henri Matisse. The first furniture he sold included historic pieces by Le Corbusier, Jean-Michel Frank and Eileen Gray. David began to collaborate with Designers, Artists and Architects to establish a new canon of limited edition pieces, exhibiting minimalist artist Donald Judd's furniture in 1990.

In 1999, David expanded his operations to a new gallery in Vauxhall, renovating a large warehouse to his own design. Exhibitions included an important installation of works by Paul McCarthy, the first in Britain. *The Bank House* involved a working train and fiberglass wall and was installed by McCarthy himself.

David Gill opened his third gallery in St James's, opposite Christie's, in 2012 with Zaha Hadid's Liquid Glacial Collection; other highlights have included Jorge Pardo's *Meretricious* and Michele Oka Doner's *Mysterium*, (both 2015), and *Tierra Madre*, (2017), London's first solo exhibition of Cuban artist Jose Yaque.

David Gill Gallery exhibits and collaborates with leading international artists, architects and designers including Barnaby Barford, Mattia Bonetti, the Campana Brothers, Daniel Libeskind, Sebastian Errazuriz, Sir David Chipperfield, Michele Oka Doner, Sebastian Brajkovic, the late Dame Zaha Hadid, Jorge Pardo, Milena Muzquiz and Fredrikson Stallard.