

PRESS RELEASE  
Bibi Smit

“Glass is in the Air”

**A flock of glass starlings flies by, a colorful series of hand-blown vessels, made with ‘spun’ glass parade like models on the catwalk, and black vases like sensuous torsos nestle together. For the third time, glass designer and artist Bibi Smit presents herself at the Dutch pavilion Masterly from 17 -22 April in Milan, with her exhibition entitled “Glass is in the Air”. A solo presentation in which she creates a titillating glass installation with an explosion of light and movement, and at the same time a breathtaking stillness.**

### **Flight of light**

Natural phenomena such as the movements of flocks of migratory birds have a great attraction to Bibi Smit. She finds the ever-changing choreography of clouds of starlings fascinating and inspiring. Bibi Smit translates this into a spectacular flight of hundreds of glass starlings. Smit has manufactured the birds in her own glassworks, made from recycled glass, melted into a beautiful shade of blue glass. Smit and her assistant simultaneously draw a bird wing from a kind of soft lollipop-shape, followed by the little head. The glass birds are then hung up and arranged until the optimal composition and the correct rhythm is obtained. The result is a breathtaking glass installation through which the light plays suggesting movement.

### **Soft glass**

Nothing is static for Smit, everything flows. At Palazzo Francesco Turati the glass artist shows in full glory that glass is a soft and strong material, which is just as alive as life itself. Here she shows the scope of her abilities and the imaginative nature of her inspiration, by playing with texture, colour, light, reflection and movement. Perpendicular to the window on the street side of the Palazzo, a long catwalk attracts attention because of a parade of colourful glass creatures that look like they are showing off their haute couture creations. The objects have both a shiny polished part and a fine relief that looks like spun glass. This texture makes the pieces sparkle in the changing light. It is like life just explodes out of the glass.

### **Stillness**

In her glass creations, Bibi Smit does not so much want to capture reality but rather a feeling. She offers Masterly's visitors the opportunity to be part of her work, to stand still and loose track of time for a moment. To lose themselves in the beauty, the stillness and the almost meditative movement of the light in the glass.

### **About Bibi Smit**

Bibi Smit (1965) is called ‘the Venini of the Netherlands’, because of her knowledge and skill to stretch the boundaries of the craft. She was educated at the West Surrey College of Art and Design in Farnham, England, where the crafts are held in high esteem. After originally setting her own studio in Scotland in 1991, she has her own glassworks in Loosdrecht since 2007. The glass artist and designer is one of the few in the Netherlands who does everything herself, from the design to the blowing, cutting, grinding and polishing. She makes unique pieces, installations and she works on commission. Her designs are included in various museums and private

collections. Exhibitions such as Masterly and the Dutch Design Week Eindhoven, result in appearances in TV programs, media attention and new commissions.

**Bibi Smit, Masterly-the-Dutch in Milano, April 17-22, 2018, Palazzo Francesco Turati, Via Meravigli 7, Milan. [masterly.nu](http://masterly.nu)**

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Bibi Smit, "sensuous vase"  
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