

# CONCERTO

the CZECH art of GLASS

*Classico*

## PRESS RELEASE

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The **CONCERTO GLASSICO** unique EXHIBITION OF GLASS AND GLASS FASHION JEWELLERY, organised by the CZECH ART OF GLASS Association, will be held between **3 June and 28 August** on an area of nearly 1000 m<sup>2</sup> in the Tuscan Palace of Prague. The chief partners of the exhibition are the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Municipality of the Capital City of Prague, and the ČEZ (Czech Power Board) Foundation.

The pre-première of this noteworthy event will take place in the entrance hall of the main building of the Prague Municipality on Mariánské Square. On 9 May, 2016, the Art of Glass Association, organising the exhibition in collaboration with the Prague Municipality, will install in the hall two works of art as a homage of Czech glassmakers to Charles IV and a celebration of his 700<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary. The work of Jitka Kantová – a stained-glass window pane dedicated to Charles IV – was made in the Skloart manufactory in Lubenec. The author of the second piece – a glass replica of Charles IV's crown jewels – is Jiří Pačinek. At the end of May both these extraordinary works of art will be transferred to Tuscan Palace and included among the central exhibits of the Concerto Classico 2016.

JITKA KANTOVÁ (Skloart Lubenec)

The stained-glass pane by Jitka Kantová originated in the singular manufactory of the Skloart company where Jitka Kantová and her husband Richard have been demonstrating how the craft of stained-glass making, one of the oldest, can be transferred from ancient times and medieval cathedrals to mundane environment and become a modern decorative material for the creation of designer objects and jewellery. In the Skloart workshop it is possible to collect keys to the unique Stained-Glass Museum, situated in the Church of St Giles, a unique Gothic monument currently undergoing renovation. The originally small church, built on Charles IV's order in 1338 to serve him as a prayer house on his way to Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) and later fallen into disrepair, has been saved from demolition by an incorporated association "For the Rescue of St Giles Church". In the Stained-Glass Museum, a remarkable exposition created by enthusiasts led by the Kants, Jitka Kantová presents herself by untraditional works of art, skilfully combining in massive sculptures the beauty of stone with the fragility and effects of colour glass.

JIŘÍ PAČINEK (Pačinek Glass factory, Lindava, Kunratice)

Apart from talent, diligence and invention, Jiří Pačinek has been endowed with a large portion of good luck. He got his first great chance as a trained glassmaker in the Ajeto glassworks, under the leadership of Petr Novotný, one of the best Czech glassmakers, who became his great model. Thanks to his versatility and thorough grasp of the craft, Jiří Pačinek had an opportunity to work with René Roubíček, a legend of Czech and world art of glass. As he says himself, the crucial moment for him was joining the trio of Roubíček-Šípek-Novotný, because these three figures of world art glassmaking influenced him in many respects, educated and inspired him. Jiří Pačinek gradually developed his own, distinctive style and view in an immensely wide gamut of products, from large sculptural objects to a variety of decorative and utility glassware. As an enormously skilful and experienced glassmaker, capable to cope with any assignment and implementation of any idea, Jiří knows that creating a glass objects requires, in addition to creative ingenuity, also great skill, patience and cooperation. As a results he inspires his works with a soul, inventiveness and unmistakability.

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