



## **PRETIOSA VITREA**

THE ROMAN ART OF GLASS MANUFACTURING IN TUSCANY  
NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, FLORENCE  
October 2017 - January 2018

Photograph by A. Garoglio, October 2016  
Florence, National Archaeological Museum - Italy



## PRETIOSA VITREA

THE ROMAN ART OF GLASS MANUFACTURING IN TUSCANY

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, FLORENCE

October 2017 - January 2018

Glass cylindrical bottle produced using the mold-blowing process and dated around the 1st-2nd century AD. The container, recreated from numerous fragments and missing in part, preserves unusual engraved-lines decoration.

Photographs by A. Garoglio, October 2016  
Florence, National Archaeological Museum - Italy





Glass cylindrical bottle produced using the mold-blowing process and dated around the 1st-2nd century AD. The container, recreated from numerous fragments and missing in part, preserves unusual engraved-lines decoration.



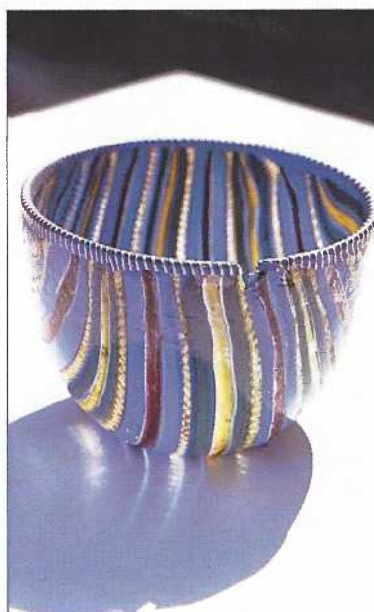
Isings 50-type bottle with curved and flattened rim and ribbon handles. This class of containers, obtained by the mold-blowing process, was widespread throughout the Roman world from the 1st - 3rd century AD. This specimen was found in Iraq and it was purchased for the collections of the Archaeological Museum of Florence in the early 20th century.



High quadrangular beaker with curved rim and depressions decoration. This type of container, inspired by shapes of the fine pottery class, was mostly produced by Campanian workshops and was diffused in the Early Imperial Period (1st-2nd century AD).



Blown glass bottle with a globular body attributable to Isings 6 type. These types of specimens had a large diffusion throughout the Mediterranean world, between the 1st and 3rd century AD. Sometimes it was used as a carrier for cold engraved decorations. Even in this case it is possible to identify two parallel lines, which are engraved in the point of maximum expansion of the body.



A rare example of an almost intact glass ribbed bowl. The specimen has been obtained by the hot juxtaposition on a mold, created by preformed glass rods and sticks of various colours. The bowl was cooled and then was subjected to a delicate work of smoothing. The process was particularly complex and it is attributable to specialized workshops. Some of them were active in Northern Italy and the process was attested from the early 1st century BC to the end of the 1st century AD.



The mold-blown cylindrical beaker is decorated with an auspicious Greek inscription, between two palmette motifs. The handwork is attributable to a class of beakers diffused in the Roman world throughout the 1st century AD. The models relate to the activity of Syrian workshops which moved to Italy during the first half of the same century, importing techniques and decorative patterns.

## PRETIOSA VITREA

THE ROMAN ART OF GLASS MANUFACTURING IN TUSCANY

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, FLORENCE

October 2017 - January 2018

## EXHIBITION'S ARTIFACTS - EXTRACT



Glass ribbed bowl attributable to the Isings 3-type. These types of bowls became widespread from the second half of the 1st century BC. It is particularly prominent in Italy where probably there were the most active production centres. The glass has a dominant pink marbling, crossed by white filaments and it was likely an imitation of the veins of precious stones.



Perfume bottle with side-handles and slightly curved rim. The specimen belongs to a class of unguents and perfumed substances containers attested in the whole Roman World from the 2nd - 4th century AD.



Mosaic glass bowl decorated with translucent canes sections, mainly coloured in white and yellow. The container provides a good example of a mold and grounded glass class, which had fortune from 2nd - 1st century BC. The technique of mosaic decoration obtained by the combination of sections of glass canes has its precedent in artisan tradition of the middle Hellenistic age (3rd century BC).



The glass cameo Unguentarium was found in Torrita di Siena in 1870. This handwork is created in a very complex glass process and it is an exceptional surviving example. It had a great fortune during the Augustan age. As with the other specimens of this class, characters of Dionysian world inspire the elegant relief decoration.



Little bowl with a concave rim-body, curved rim and ring foot. These little containers, attributable to Isings 42 type, had a great fortune throughout Italy, from the middle of the 1st century AD. These little bowls, used as containers for sauces (acetabula), were probably inspired by the "Dragendorff 35 type" of terra-sigillata containers.



Glass perfume bottle produced on a friable core shaped as a little amphora. The sand-core process, established since the 6th century BC, continued throughout most of the Mediterranean until the Hellenistic age.

## PRETIOSA VITREA

THE ROMAN ART OF GLASS MANUFACTURING IN TUSCANY

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, FLORENCE

October 2017 - January 2018