

# LUHRING AUGUSTINE

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## **Lumina**

September 13 – October 26, 2019

Opening reception: Thursday, September 12, 6–8 p.m.

Luhring Augustine is pleased to announce *Lumina*, Ritsue Mishima's first solo presentation in New York. On view in Chelsea from September 13 through October 26, 2019, the exhibition features new blown glass sculptures and vessels by the Japanese artist. Textured and multidimensional, her work reflects and manipulates light, simultaneously illuminating their settings and becoming embedded within the surroundings.

Born in Kyoto, Japan in 1962, Mishima moved to Venice, Italy in 1989, and splits her time between the two cities. Drawing on ancient glassmaking techniques, Mishima reinvigorates the thousand-year-old practice with her unique perspective. Her work is distinctly contemporary in its aesthetic, informed by the cultural exchange between Japanese and European sensibilities. Collaborating with master craftsmen in Murano, she has been an innovating force in glass for over two decades, pushing the limits and unpredictability of the medium through her spontaneous, intuitive process and material interventions. Mishima's works are cut, blistered, etched, polished, molded, and joined, achieving different levels of transparency to alter their level of depth and interaction with light.

At Luhring Augustine, Mishima will debut 25 new works that demonstrate the medium's inherent tensions. Her sculptures illustrate glass's constant state of fluctuation, caught between solid and liquid states, as well as stillness and movement. Despite their diverse scales, shapes, and means of intervention, her work is united by its transparency – a divergence from the Murano tradition of creating colorful glass. Relying on the juxtaposition of light and shadow to reveal each work's complexities, Mishima plays with paradoxes. Transient and eternal, delicate and resilient, uneven and refined, the sculptures are ever-changing.

In addition to the works on view, Luhring Augustine will present a film documenting Mishima's 2017 site-specific installation at Nijo Castle, a World Heritage Site in Kyoto, Japan. *Eyes of Light* consisted of 600 objects, installed in the castle's inner moat, designed to float on the water's surface and reflect the sky. Connecting the history of Nijo Castle with the present, the work is also inspired by the prevalence of water in Mishima's life, from the hidden streams of Kyoto, to Venetian canals, to the Island of Murano.

## **About the Artist**

Ritsue Mishima was born in Kyoto, Japan, in 1962. She lives and works between Kyoto and Venice. Recent solo exhibitions include *Cristal Blanc*, Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels (2017), *Istante*, Brutto Gusto, Berlin (2016), *In Grimani: Ritsue Mishima Glass Works*, Museum of Palazzo Grimani, Venice, Italy (2013), and *Frozen Garden/Fruits of Fire*, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands (2010). Her work has also been included in the following group exhibitions: *Tras Forma*, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice (2014), *To Wander a Garden*, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, Japan (2012). In 2001, Ritsue Mishima won the Giorgio Armani Prize for Best Artist at Sotheby's Contemporary Decorative Arts Exhibition, London and, in 2012, was the recipient of the Bavarian State Award at 'Exempla 2012: Glass-Material Between Tradition and Innovation', Munich.

**For information on the artist, please contact Rana Saner at 212.206.9100 or [rana@luhringaugustine.com](mailto:rana@luhringaugustine.com).**

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