



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts News Release  
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### **Lino Tagliapietra's Exhibition Debuts in Alabama**

**Montgomery, AL, October 11, 2018**– For the first time, internationally known Italian glassblower Lino Tagliapietra's extraordinary sculptures will be on view in the state of Alabama. The public is invited to see the exhibition *Lino Tagliapietra: Master of Beauty* at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) beginning Saturday, November 10, 2018, at 10 AM.

Considered one of the preeminent artists working with glass, Tagliapietra's influence within the American Studio Glass Movement is unparalleled. Additionally, he has gained an international reputation as an innovative artist who pushes the boundaries of the medium. He says, "I think in glass. I think about the material, the fire, the technique, the movement." This way of thinking and working form the basis for the 40 astonishing works of art created between 1998 and 2018 that are on view in the Museum's galleries. Sculptures in the exhibition that demonstrate the breadth and range of Tagliapietra's mastery include examples from several of his most important series such as *Batman*, *Bilbao*, *Dinosaur*, and the *Masai* wall installations among other pieces.

The 84-year-old artist combines the techniques, colors, motifs, and forms that he mastered as a glassblower in the factories of his native Murano, Italy, with innovative ideas gathered from his travels, teaching, and encounters with American Studio Glass artists. The sculptural glass pieces he has produced since the beginning of his independent artistic career in 1979 – when he began teaching at Pilchuck Glass School in Washington – are stunning explorations that transform his concepts into fluid forms.

"Tagliapietra's creativity and techniques have had a profound impact on generations of glass artists and on the medium itself. We are honored to have artwork from one of his most important series, *Dinosaur*, in our permanent collection. Many are in awe after seeing the beautiful elongated shape of the sculpture for the first time, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to present a larger body of Tagliapietra's work to the region." said Angie Dodson, Director of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts.

The Museum expresses its appreciation to Schantz Galleries, Stockbridge, Massachusetts, for their assistance in assembling the works exhibited in *Lino Tagliapietra: Master of Beauty*.

The Museum is grateful to the exhibition's corporate sponsor Hyundai Motor Manufacturing, Alabama. We would also like to thank lead sponsor Winifred and Charles A. Stakely, and sponsors Laura and Barrie Harmon, and Dawn and Adam Schloss.

The exhibition is supported by a grant by the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a free brochure with an essay by Diane C. Wright, Ph.D., Curator of Glass and Decorative Arts, Toledo Museum of Art. Additionally, an exhibition poster will be available for purchase in the Museum Store.

For more information about related programs to *Lino Tagliapietra: Master of Beauty* go to [mmfa.org](http://mmfa.org).

The Museum, located at One Museum Drive, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM; Thursday from 10 AM to 9 PM; and Sunday Noon to 5 PM. The Museum Store is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 AM to 4 PM; and Sunday, Noon to 4 PM. Admission is free and donations are welcome. For more information, call at 334.625.4333.

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, a department of the City of Montgomery, is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery, the Montgomery County Commission, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Lino Tagliapietra (Italian, born 1934), *Angel Tear*, 2011, blown glass, Lent by the artist and Schantz Galleries, Stockbridge, Massachusetts

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