

# VAN TREECK

PRESS RELEASE | MILAN DESIGN WEEK 2026

## **VAN TREECK in Milan – Heritage craftsmanship meets lighting design and poetry**

**Munich/Milan, April 2026** – At Milan Design Week 2026, VAN TREECK will challenge conventional perceptions. Located at Via Solferino 17, the renowned Bayerische Hofglasmalerei (Royal Bavarian Studios for Glass Painting) will present a new collection at the "Menu" exhibition. The showcase blurs the lines between historic craftsmanship, applied design and contemporary collectible objects.

Since 1887, the Gustav van Treeck manufactory in Munich has been a leading institution for mosaics and stained glass. In collaboration with the London-based Bodo Sperlein studio and Munich's Office Heinzelmänn Ayadi (OHA), the workshops have created functional objects that serve as sculptural statements for high-end interiors. These pieces translate the 'savoir-faire' of Bavarian craftsmanship into a contemporary global design language.

### **A Symbiosis of Art and Calculation**

The designers immersed themselves in the history and technical capabilities of the workshops, rethinking the use of glass as a medium and exploring new finishing techniques. The resulting products are autonomous sculptures that maintain exceptional functionality. Here, the precision of design calculations meets the beautiful unpredictability of artisanal craftsmanship.

Founded in 1887, the Gustav van Treeck Munich workshops are among the most significant mosaic and glass studios in Europe. For generations, they have masterfully executed works that have shaped sacred spaces, public buildings, and architectural projects. Historic techniques such as lead glazing, glass painting, etching and fusing are kept alive and reinterpreted in contemporary works.

### **Glass Art: Between Light, Architecture, and Sculpture**

As part of his "Menu" exhibition for Milan Design Week, Munich-born and London-based designer and artist Bodo Sperlein presents his first comprehensive collaboration with the heritage-rich Gustav van Treeck workshops.

The result of this dialogue between contemporary design and almost 140 years of expertise in glass painting and refinement is a collection where artistic vision meets extraordinary craftsmanship and material poetry. For Sperlein, glass is not merely a material; it is a vessel for light, depth, and atmosphere. The works occupy the space between object, sculpture, and architecture. Each piece possesses its own character, telling an individual story through its unique structure, colour, and light.

### **The Bodo Sperlein Collection comprises three distinct groups**

#### **BLOOM**

The Bloom Collection consists of floral wall applications made of mouth-blown glass. Colour gradients flow powerfully and organically into one another, making each flower appear like a living organism. The natural surface structure remains visible and enhances the effect of light and shadow. Set in filigree metal structures reminiscent of historic leaded glass, the objects combine traditional craftsmanship and contemporary artistic design. The result is floating light sculptures that oscillate between natural form and architecture.



# VAN TREECK

## ARCTIC

Arctic is inspired by ice landscapes, glaciers, and frozen moments. The lights are cut from solid cast Dall glass (Dalle de verre), whose depth and density are reminiscent of frozen water. Irregular broken edges and raw cut lines give the glass a lively, almost pulsating structure. When light hits these edges, it captures the surfaces, reflecting and refracting them. The lights begin to “come alive” and unfold their effect in the context of the “Menu” exhibition. Due to the nature of the material and the individual craftsmanship involved, each light is unique and appears different depending on the perspective and incidence of light

## VEIL

The Veil Collection is artistically designed, transparent to semi-transparent, architectural glass panels that structure rooms and create atmosphere. Their textured surfaces are reminiscent of natural patterns such as leaf veins, organic growth forms, or the delicate transparency of dragonfly wings. The glass filters the light, refracting it and distributing it softly throughout the room. This creates depth, transparency, and a subtle atmosphere. Veil combines function and artistic design in sculptural architectural elements that define, enliven, and poetically permeate spaces.

All works are created in close collaboration with the artisans at Gustav van Treeck. Tradition, material knowledge, and experimental design combine to create contemporary glass art that enlivens light, space, and object in equal measure.

For Bodo Sperlein, the collaboration has personal significance: having grown up in Munich, he is returning to a place where craftsmanship tradition is alive and well, while his London studio brings an international perspective. Past and present, local heritage and global practice merge in a common language of glass, light, and form.

## The Poetry of Tension

### BEDUM

For the Bedum lighting series by the Munich-based design duo OHA (Office Heinzelmänn Ayadi), the artisans at VAN TREECK fuse stainless steel wire with coloured rectangular glass sections, intricately interweaving them with fused glass. This cleverly conceived geometry results in bold, three-dimensional forms that refract light and actively shape the environment through painterly shadow play.

The deliberate combination of contrasting materials — stainless steel and glass — creates an inherent tension. Over time, minute cracks may develop — a natural process that renders each piece unique and imbues it with its own history, without compromising its structural integrity. The Bedum series comprises a floor lamp in three sizes, as well as wall and ceiling luminaires. Each model features a predefined colour scheme, but custom commissions regarding size and colour are available in keeping with the workshop’s tradition.

## Tradition as Innovation

"We are not just bringing products to Milan. We are telling the story of the House of VAN TREECK and using these new objects to affirm the necessary transformation of our historic craft," says Katja Zukic, the company's managing director and creative lead. Each piece crafted in Munich's Maxvorstadt district embodies a commitment to the "slowness" of craftsmanship in an accelerated design landscape, making it a vision of the future.



# VAN TREECK

## Dates & Location

- **Exhibition:** "Menu", 17 Via Solferino, Brera Design District, 20121 Milano
- **Press Day:** Monday, April 20, 2026 | 10am - 7pm
- **Public Days:** April 21 to 25, 2026 | 10am - 7pm

## About VAN TREECK

The "Bayerische Hofglasmalerei" (Royal Bavarian Studios for Glass Painting) Gustav van Treeck is one of the world's leading stained glass and mosaic workshops. For almost 140 years, the Munich-based company has combined traditional techniques with contemporary artistic influences, and is now a highly sought-after partner for architectural art and design projects around the world. Since 1887, the workshops have created contemporary art in the form of glass painting, mosaics and applied architectural glass to the highest standard of craftsmanship, as well as restoring historic cultural treasures.

## About Bodo Sperlein

Bodo Sperlein is a London-based designer and artist. His multidisciplinary studio works internationally on objects, interiors, and exhibitions, combining cultural narratives with artistic precision and material research.

## About OHA (Office Heinzelmänn Ayadi)

Office Heinzelmänn Ayadi is a Munich-based design studio specialising in product and furniture design. Sami Ayadi and Jan Heinzelmänn work on projects ranging from industrial products and furniture to exhibitions, interiors and public installations, as well as limited-edition pieces for galleries. They combine a strong interest in contemporary design culture with a profound understanding of craftsmanship and a passion for new technologies and materials.

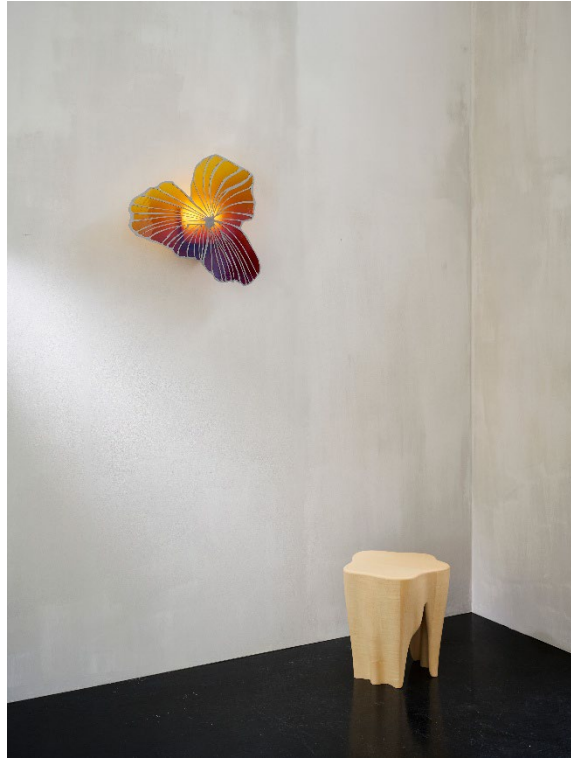
*The exhibition participation is supported by BAUWERK Colour and Création Baumann.*



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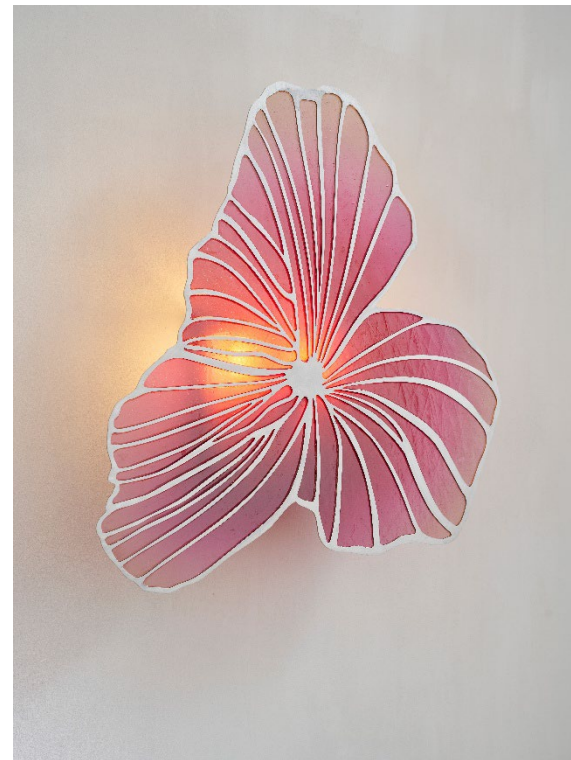
BLOOM by Bodo Sperlein – Floral Wall Lamp blue-green



BLOOM by Bodo Sperlein – Colour: Stained Yellow



BLOOM by Bodo Sperlein – Floral Wall Application Detail



BLOOM by Bodo Sperlein – Floral Wall Lamp pink



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ARCTIC by Bodo Sperlein - Wall Lamp



VEIL by Bodo Sperlein - Architectural Glass Sample



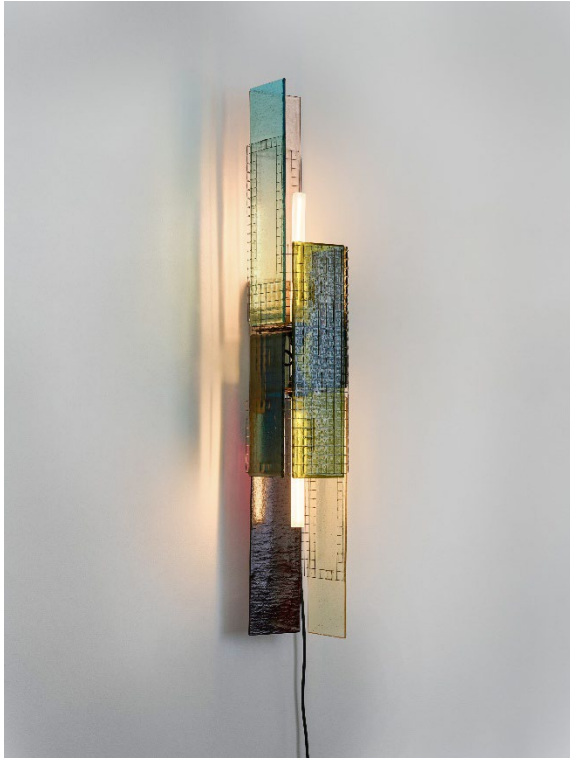
ARCTIC by Bodo Sperlein - Sculptural Light



ARCTIC by Bodo Sperlein - colour variations



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BEDUM by Office Heinzelmann Ayadi – Wall Lamp



BEDUM by Office Heinzelmann Ayadi – Pendant Lamp



BEDUM by Office Heinzelmann Ayadi – Floor Lamps



BEDUM by Office Heinzelmann Ayadi – Floor Lamp



# VAN TREECK

## Press contact

For further press information and interview requests please contact

# VAN TREECK

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