

The Bagatti Valsecchi Museum

takes part in the seventh edition of

FuoriOrticola

with the exhibition

From Then Till Now | Da allora ad oggi

by Hugh Findletar

aka Mr.FLOWERheadZ

May 7 - June 8, 2025

OPENING: MAY 6 AT 7 PM

Museo Bagatti Valsecchi Via Gesù 5, Milano

On the occasion of Orticola 2025, whose main theme is "Bio, bio, bio: in the garden there's life!", the Bagatti Valsecchi Museum is taking part in the seventh edition of FuoriOrticola by presenting the exhibition *From Then Till Now* by Hugh Findletar, on view from May 7 to June 8.

Hugh Findletar - Jamaican by birth, trained in New York, adopted by Milan, and captivated by Murano glass - is a professional photographer specializing in portraiture. It is precisely from this vocation that he began creating his *glass icons*.

His blown-glass heads draw inspiration from funerary Egyptian masks and from Greek *oinochoai*, sometimes double-faced, as well as from Roman wine flasks. At the same time, they function as vases that recall 17th-century Baroque still lifes — symbols of *vanitas* and the transience of life — while paradoxically representing their opposite: living forms that can be kept alive at will.

Thus were born Hugh Findletar's *FLOWERheadZ*, which enter into dialogue with the permanent collection of the Bagatti Valsecchi Museum, offering visitors a unique experience where Renaissance taste meets nature and glass.

Findletar's art is the result of a rich blend of influences and inspirations. His Jamaican heritage, steeped in legends and tradition, gives his works a distinctive voice; his passion for horticulture, passed down from his beloved great-grandmother, shaped his artistic sensibility.

He was only missing the ideal medium, which he discovered during a trip to Kenya, where he was first introduced to glassblowing, the material he needed to bring his imagination to life. From that moment on, he embarked on a long journey of experimentation that led him to Murano, to the



historic Zanetti glassworks, where he refined the technique and gave life to his famous hot-molded faces. Each breath is a creative, intimate, and unrepeatable gesture that transforms the incandescent material into a vibrant and dynamic presence.

Glass has enabled him to translate his fascination with physiognomy into forms that are ironic, sometimes unflinching, but always affectionate in their portrayal of the human face.

The exhibition is part of FuoriOrticola, a citywide event where art and nature engage in dialogue around the theme "Bio, bio, bio: in the garden there's life!", inviting each participating institution to explore, with creativity and originality, vitality as a form of expression.

Hugh Findletar's works thus enter into direct dialogue with the rooms of the Bagatti Valsecchi Museum, intertwining with the neo-Renaissance furnishings in a play of visual and symbolic references. The vases from the *Generation Collection*, along with anthropomorphic, zoomorphic, and new site-specific works, are scattered throughout the historical mansion, resting on tables, fireplaces, and antique furniture, creating a refined balance between the ancient and the contemporary.

Bagatti Valsecchi Museum Via Gesù, 5 20121 Milan www.museobagattivalsecchi.org

Opening hours: Wednesday: 13:00 - 20:00 Thursday and Friday: 13:00 - 17:45 Saturday and Sunday: 10:00 - 17:45 Closed on Monday and Tuesday

Ticket prices: Full price: €12.00 Reduced and discounts: €9.00 University students with ID and adults over 65 (full list of discounts at <u>www.museobagattivalsecchi.org</u>) Children and teens from 6 to 17 years old: €2.00 Free entry: Children up to 5 years old, companions of people with disabilities, Friends of the Bagatti Valsecchi Museum, ICOM members

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