



← [Glass Curiosities: Lewis Hine's child-labor photos document the early 20th-century American glass industry](#)

[EVENT: Still time to register for GLASSBoston](#) →

BY LAGUIRI | JUNE 4, 2013 · 1:53 PM

[↓ Jump to Comments](#)

EXHIBITION: Construction toys inspire new lighting series by Paola Petrobelli



Paola Petrobelli, 24.2.2. Table Lamp, 2013. Moulded glass, powder coated metal, electrical wiring, braided flex. H 27 1/2, W 17 3/5 in. Edition of 24 plus 2 artist's proofs. photo: Paola Petrobelli courtesy: Gallery Libby Sellers

[Paola Petrobelli](#), a glass designer who frequently collaborates with glassmakers in Murano, was inspired by toy building blocks for her new series of retro, stackable glass lighting. Now on view through June 13th at [Gallery Libby Sellers](#) in London, "24 by Paola Petrobelli" features vibrant, playful works made in Petrobelli's native Italy; the components of each piece can be rearranged to form 24 different combinations. "Just like the [toy] Meccano bricks, each glass layer of the lamp—be it a floor-based or ceiling pendant lamp—can be reordered and swapped," explains Petrobelli on her website.

Commissioned by Gallery Libby Sellers, the pieces evoke the basic

Hot Sheet Search:

[Search](#)

Art Fairs

- [Sculptural Objects Functional Art \(SOFA\) Expo](#)

Arts Organizations

- [Glass Art Society](#)
- [GoggleWorks](#)
- [UrbanGlass](#)

Auction Houses

- [Bonhams Auctioneers & Appraisers](#)
- [Rago Arts and Auction Center](#)
- [Ripley Auctions, Indianapolis](#)

Call for Entries

- [American Craft Council Shows](#)

Events

- [GlassWeekend 2013](#)

Foundations

- [Robert Minkoff Foundation](#)

Galleries

- [Blue Rain Gallery](#)

shape of lanterns while their bright hues connote a retro, 1960s feel similar to plastics like Bakelite. An even stronger connection can be drawn to the simplicity and functionality so characteristic of modern and contemporary Scandinavian design. Her work shares a kinship with that of designers like Kaj Franck, who espoused clean, simple design “so obvious you won’t even notice [it],” or companies like [Holmegaard](#), makers of bold, brightly colored glassware in the 1960s now popular with collectors.

Petrobelli, who began working with glass in 1999, has an usual background for a glass designer. Born in Padua, she studied molecular biology, conducted medical research, and competed as a successful motor racer before turning to glass. Her work has been shown at various art fairs and galleries like [Design Miami/Basel](#), the [Salone Internazionale del Mobile](#) in Milan, and [Perimeter Art & Design](#).

IF YOU GO:

Paola Petrobelli
“24 by Paola Petrobelli”
through June 14, 2013
Gallery Libby Sellers
41-42 Berners Street
London W1T 3NB
Tel: +44 (0)20 3384 8785
Email: galler@libbysellers.com
Web: www.libbysellers.com



Paola Petrobelli, 24.2.1. Table Lamp, 2013. Molded glass, powder coated metal, electrical wiring, braided flex. H 27 1/2, W 17 3/5 in. Edition of 24 plus 2 artist's proofs. photo: Paola Petrobelli courtesy: Gallery Libby Sellers

—Grace Duggan

- David Richard Gallery
- Duane Reed Gallery
- galerie W
- Heller Gallery
- Kirra Galleries
- Morgan Glass Gallery
- Pismo Fine Art Glass
- Schantz Galleries Contemporary Glass
- Scott Jacobson Gallery
- The Bender Gallery
- Traver Gallery

Graphic Design

- Stislow Design + Illustration

Museums

- Bergstrom-Mahler Glass Museum
- Chrysler Museum of Art – Glass Studio
- Corning Museum of Glass
- Museum of Glass, Tacoma
- The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum

Schools

- Bild-Werk Frauenau e.V.
- Buck's Rock Performing and Creative Arts Camp
- Bullseye Glass Resource Center
- Glass Axis
- Glass Painting for Artists
- Hot Glass Houston
- Kent State University
- Ox-bow School of Art and Artist Residency
- Penland School of Crafts
- Pilchuck Glass School
- Pittsburgh Glass Center