

# SIDE GALLERY

GINO POLI (1919-1977)



## Wall Lamps model "Vetreria Aureliano Toso"

Manufactured by Sothis  
Italy, 1950s  
Metal and Murano Glass

### Measurements

22 cm x 30 cm x 22 cm  
8,7 in x 11,8 in x 8,7 in

### Literature

Marc Heiremans, Vetreria Aureliano Toso  
1938-1958, Arnoldsche editore, Stoccarda, 2016

## Biography

Born in 1919, Gino Poli's creative work was predominantly influenced by the 1930s. The period of the 1930s is epitomised by the clashing of a number of political ideologies, including Marxist Socialism, Capitalist Democracy, and the Totalitarianism of both Communism and Fascism. Surrealism continued to dominate in Europe, and had influence internationally. Artists such as Frida Kahlo and Diego Riviera in Mexico, worked to incorporate the ideas posed by Surrealism into their radical political ideologies, developing a new kind of magic realism. Artistic output in the United States was heavily impacted at the time by the Great Depression, and a number of artists took to focusing on ideas of humbleness and the ordinary man. For the first time in US history, artists began to delve into political subjects and attempted to use their art to impact society. Topics including poverty, lack of affordable housing, anti-lynching, anti-fascism, and workers' strikes were prevalent in many artists' work. In the Soviet Union, Stalin's government needed urgent funds to implement the rapid industrialisation demanded by the first Five Year Plan. It initiated a secret strategy to sell off treasures from the State Hermitage Museum in Leningrad (St. Petersburg), including a primary list of two hundred and fifty unique paintings by the Old Masters, many which found their way to the collection of Andrew Mellon via the New York based art dealing company, Knoedler. The decade took a ominous turn with the birth of National Socialism in Germany, followed by Adolf Hitler's rise to power in 1933. By the end of the decade, the Second World War had begun; which preoccupied both artists and the global population.