



Dale Chihuly

Born in 1941 in Tacoma Washington. As a boy he loved to go to the beach with his family, and he always gathered bits of polished sea glass.

Little Chihuly's love for water carried him from seaside to working on fishing boats. And it was there where he found his inspiration for his future work.

He discovered his interest in art, while researching Van Gogh.

Dale Chihuly was introduced to glass while studying interior design at the University of Washington.

Van Gogh



"Vase with Red Poppies"

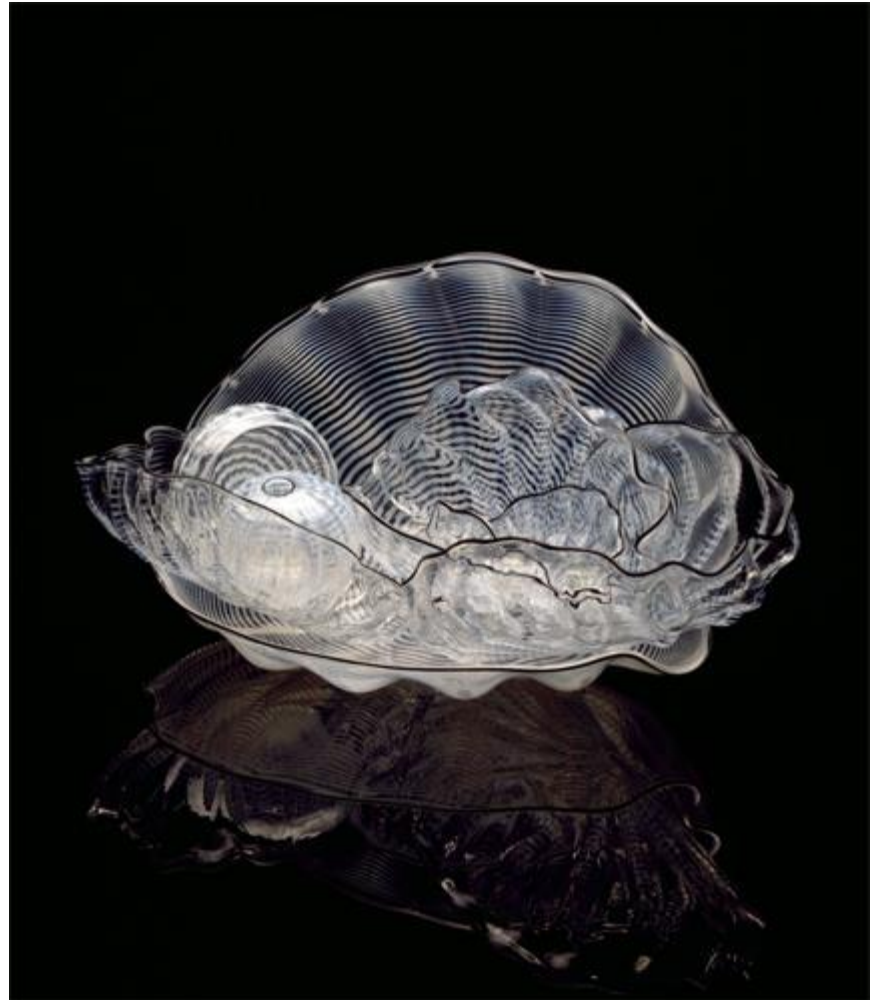
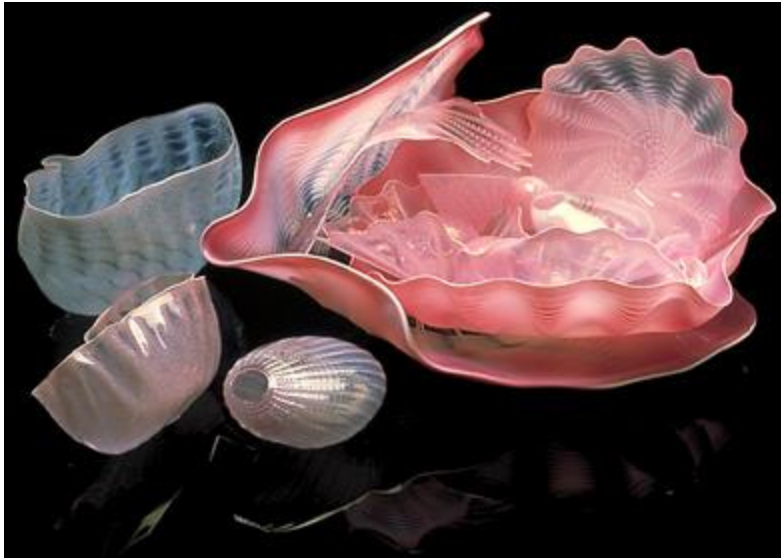


Wheat Field with Cypresses

What techniques and ideas do you think Chihuly adopted from Van Gogh?

Chihuly has created more than a dozen well-known series of works, among them Cylinders and Baskets in the 1970s; Seaforms, Macchia, Venetians, and Persians in the 1980s; Niijima

Seaforms, 1998

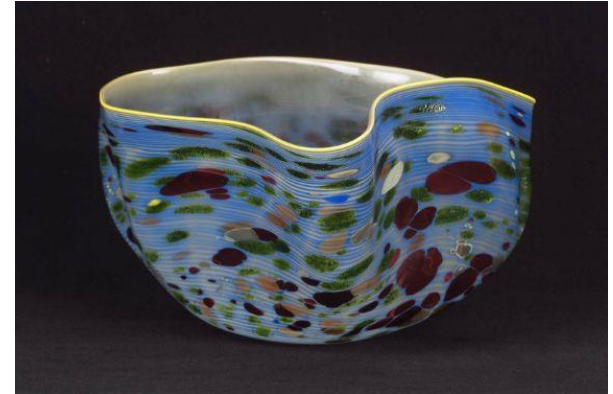


*Frost White Seaform, Set with Black Water
Lip Wraps, 1999 (Litvak Gallery, Israel)*

Other major exhibition venues include the de Young Museum in San Francisco, in 2008, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 2011. Chihuly Garden and Glass opened at Seattle Center in 2012.



Mille Fiori, De Young
Museum,
San Francisco 2008



Macchia Glass
Series, Dale
Chihuly,
American
1982, MFA
Boston



Chihuly Garden & Glass, Seattle Center, Seattle, Washington 2012

Sea Life



Chihuly interprets various elements of life in the water. A **Tower** and vessels with sculpted sea life forms such as starfish, octopus, conch shells, sea anemones, urchins and manta rays

Persian Cielings



Chihuly began the ***Persians*** series in 1986 while experimenting with new forms. Originally, he displayed *Persians* in pedestal compositions, often with smaller shapes nested in larger pieces. Later, working with an architectural framework, he mounts larger forms to walls and suspends them as overhead compositions. The first *Persian Ceiling* was presented in his 1992 exhibition at the opening of the downtown Seattle Art Museum.

F I O R I



PURPLE FROG FOOT INSTALLATION,
2004

CHIHULY IN THE GARDEN,
MAY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2004
ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Floats and Chandeliers in the 1990s; and Fiori in the 2000s. He is also celebrated for large architectural installations.

In 1986, he was honored with a solo exhibition; Dale Chihuly objects de verre, at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Palais du Louvre, in Paris.

Campiello Remer

In 1995, he began Chihuly over Venice, for which he created sculptures at glass factories in Finland, Ireland, and Mexico, and then installed them over the canals and piazzas of Venice.



This Chandelier was blown in [Ireland](#). The magnificent hand-cut crystal shines unexpectedly on the Grand Canal from its prominent mount in the tiny Campiello Remer (*remer*=oar maker). Here lived the famous nobleman who dared to conspire against the Doge in the year 1310; his attack on the Doge's Palace failed, and he was condemned to lifelong exile.

In 2000, Chihuly mounted a challenging exhibition, Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem; more than 1 million visitors attended the Tower of David Museum to view his installations.

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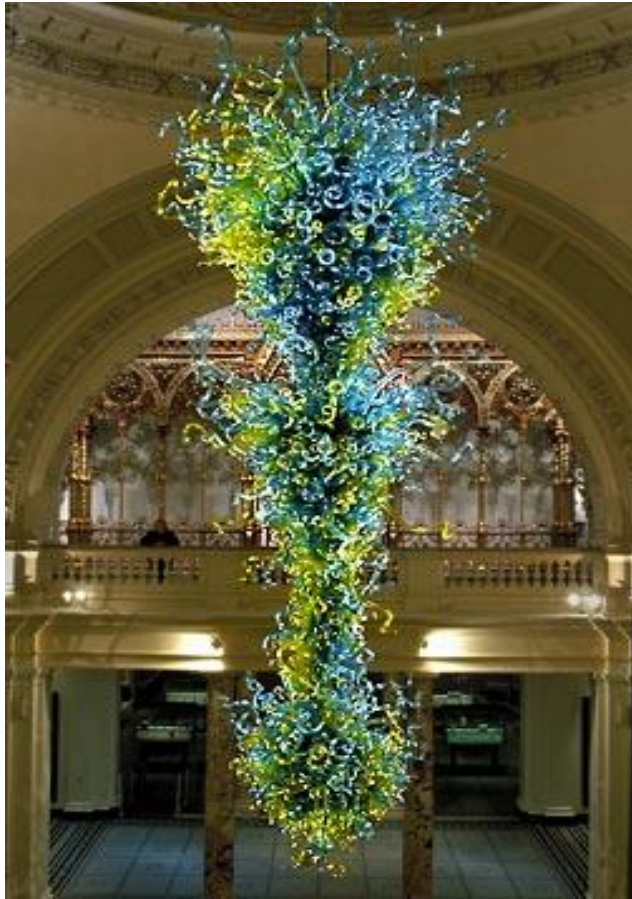
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Chandler,

Victoria & Albert Museum, London



In 2001, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London exhibition. Here Chihuly explores his fascination for glasshouses and developed a series of exhibitions within botanical settings.



Tower
of Light,
Pirelli
Garden,
VA.
London



Cobalt Fiori, Phipps Conservatory,
Pittsburg, PA

Fire Orange Baskets

Revisiting a series Chihuly began in 1977, **Fire Orange Baskets** presents the asymmetrical forms in vibrant, orange hues. Chihuly continues to push the boundaries of scale. These Baskets are among the largest he's created, in direct response to the grandeur of the Glasshouse.



Glasshouse Exhibit "**Chihuly Garden and Glass**" Located at Seattle Center, Seattle Washington.

Chandelier



*Chihuly **Chandeliers*** are three-dimensional complex installations, ranging from three to 30 feet in length and made up of as many as 1,000 parts.

Nijima Float Project, 1997



Float Boats



Chihuly first filled boats with glass in 1995 as part of the *Chihuly Over Venice* project. After several days of glassblowing in Finland, Chihuly and the team made temporary installations along the Nuutajoki, the river nearby. He experimented with tossing glass forms into the river to see how the colored pieces would interact with water and light.



F L O A T B O A T

As the glass floated away, local teenagers gathered them in small rowboats, and Chihuly considered a new type of installation. Chihuly has a longtime interest in wooden boats, and when the team found an old wooden rowboat, he filled it with glass parts he made in the Nuutajärvi factory. He has continued to develop the idea since.

NATURE *Reeds*



Chihuly has often said, **“I want my work to appear as though it came from nature so if someone found it... they might think it belonged there.”** Chihuly takes his work beyond traditional indoor gallery presentations creating elaborate installations that flow on floors, walls, ceilings and the outdoors. The installations take on new life when juxtaposed with the natural environment.

Mille Flore



Italian for “**a thousand flowers,**” – Chihuly assembles gardens of glass that include many of his series of works. He exhibited the first ***Mille Fiori*** in his hometown in 2003 at the Tacoma Art Museum. The artist’s association with gardens is strongly autobiographical and references his mother’s passion for gardening.

Macchia



Chihuly began the **Macchia** series in 1981 with the desire to use all 300 colors available to him in the hotshop, and named it such after asking his friend Italo Scanga the word for “spot” in Italian. Each work is speckled with color, which comes from rolling the molten glass in small shards of colored glass during the blowing process.

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Chihuly has explained, “Drawing really helps me to think about things. I’m able to draw and work with a lot of color and that inspires me.” Chihuly draws with unconventional materials—liquid pigment squeezed from plastic bottles can suggest the ways that different colors of molten glass merge and mingle.

“You can more directly sense my energy in my drawings than in any other way. And from the very beginning, the drawings were done, as my glass is done, very quickly, very fast.”

Dale Chihuly

Chihuly wears an eye patch, due to his injury. In 1976, while Chihuly was in England, he was involved in a head-on car accident during which he flew through the windshield.^[4] His face was severely cut by glass and he was blinded in his left eye. After recovering, he continued to blow glass until he dislocated his right shoulder in a 1979 [bodysurfing](#) accident. No longer able to hold the glass blowing pipe, he hired others to do the work. He is also known for wearing vivid clothing like the colors in his glass, and sports an unruly hair do. His eccentric look reminds many of a pirate.



“If I had not been a sculptor or an artist, I would love to have been a film director or an architect.”
Dale Chihuly



CBS Early Show, copy link to browser

<http://vimeo.com/19463157>