

Art Lesson

Tower of Light 2000

Dale Chihuly



Monte Carlo- Monaco

Vocabulary

Glass blowing – Is a glass forming technique that involves inflating molten glass into a bubble, or parison, with the aid of a blowpipe, or blow tube. A person who blows glass is called a glassblower, glassmith, or gaffer.

Assistant – The glassworker that works directly for the Gaffer. In some situations, there may be several assistants depending on the size of the project.

Blower – The glass worker that blows the air through the blowpipe (within the mold or freehanded). Upon occasion, the gaffer might do the blowing of the air themselves to have more control.

Abstract art uses a visual language of form, color and line to create a composition which may exist with a degree of independence from visual references in the world

Meet the Artist

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.
- After graduating in 1965, Chihuly enrolled in the first glass program in the country, at the University of Wisconsin. He continued his studies at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where he later established the glass program and taught for more than A decade.
- In 1968, after receiving a Fulbright Fellowship, he went to work at the Venini glass factory in Venice Italy. There he observed the team approach to blowing glass, which is critical to the way he works today.
- He was the first American glassblower to work for this "Venni Factory."
- In 1971, Chihuly cofounded Pilchuck Glass School in Washington State. With this international glass center, Chihuly has led the avant-garde in the development of glass as a fine art.
- In 1976 he suffered a car accident that left him blind in one eye affecting his depth perception
- He struggled with his art afterwards, and finally decided to work on a collaborative method which is already used by glassblowers on his future projects.
- He first paints his idea on canvas, and then works with his assistants to achieve his vision.
- His work is included in more than 200 hundred museum collections worldwide. He has been the recipient of many awards, including eleven honorary doctorates and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts.

- 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; Nijima
- 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.
- 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.
- In 1999, 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Fun Fact

- Chihuly wears an eye patch, due to his injury, and sports an unruly hair do. His eccentric look reminds many of a pirate.
-

Possible Questions

- You may ask students what colors they see.
- Do you think the colors are balanced
- What is this sculptor represent (Tree, a torch, flower)
- Do they think it is realistic or abstract
- Why do they think it is?

Project Supplies

- Empty water bottles
 - Acrylic paint
 - Paint brushes
 - Containers for water
 - Thin wiring
 - Scissors
-

The Project

- Distribute Paints, brushes and water containers
- Have children paint bottles
- Set aside bottles to dry they should dry quickly, as we are using acrylic paint
- Help students cut bottom of bottle off, then cut bottle upwards toward cap
- In a zigzag pattern.
- Repeat process for each
- String bottles through the caps with wiring and install on the mounted tube in the hallway which will
- Serve as our sculpture base

Note:

We will mount a tube base outside the classrooms, and as each class finishes their project

Each class will add their pieces gradually, until we have a finished product. Also this project

Could take some time, you could break it up into lessons.

Many of you will choose to have the students paint their bottles first as they will need time

To dry.

Art Project Example:

