

Dale Chihuly

Born in 1941 in Tacoma, Washington, Dale Chihuly was introduced to glass while studying interior design at the University of Washington. After graduating in 1965, Chihuly enrolled in Harvey Littleton's seminal glass program at the University of Wisconsin. Chihuly continued his studies at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where he later established the glass program.

In 1968, Chihuly was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to work at the Venini factory in Venice, Italy. While in Venice, Chihuly observed the Italians' team approach to blowing glass, which is critical to his studio today. In 1971 Chihuly co-founded Pilchuck Glass School, in Stanwood, Washington. With this international glass center, Chihuly has led the avant-garde in the development of glass blowing as a studio art and the broader contemporary interest in glass as an expressive medium. His work is included in over one hundred eighty museum collections worldwide. He has been the recipient of many awards, including honorary doctorates from the University of Puget Sound, the Rhode Island School of Design, and the California College of Arts and Crafts. Chihuly also has been honored with two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Council for the Arts Visual Artist's Award, and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award.

Chihuly has created many well-known series of works, among them the *Baskets*, *Persians*, and *Seaforms*, but he is most celebrated for large architectural installations. In 1995 he embarked on the multifaceted international project, "Chihuly Over Venice," which involved collaborative glass blowing at factories in Finland, Ireland and Mexico, with the resultant sculptures mounted over the canals and *piazze* of Venice as part of that city's first glass biennial.

In 1999, Chihuly mounted his most ambitious installation to date, Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem; more than one million visitors attended the Tower of David Museum to view his installations. In 2001 the Victoria and Albert Museum, in London, curated the exhibition Chihuly at the V & A. He exhibited at the Salt Lake Art Center during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. His garden exhibition was first presented in 2001 at the Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago. The Chihuly Bridge of Glass in Tacoma, Washington, was dedicated in 2002. In 2005, Chihuly exhibited at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew near London, and at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida in both 2006 and 2007. An exhibition at the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania opened in May 2007. An exhibition in 2008 at the de Young Museum was Chihuly's first major exhibition in San Francisco. In 2009 he began working on the Silvered series..