



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA ALERT:**

**Museum of Glass Celebrates Dale Chihuly**

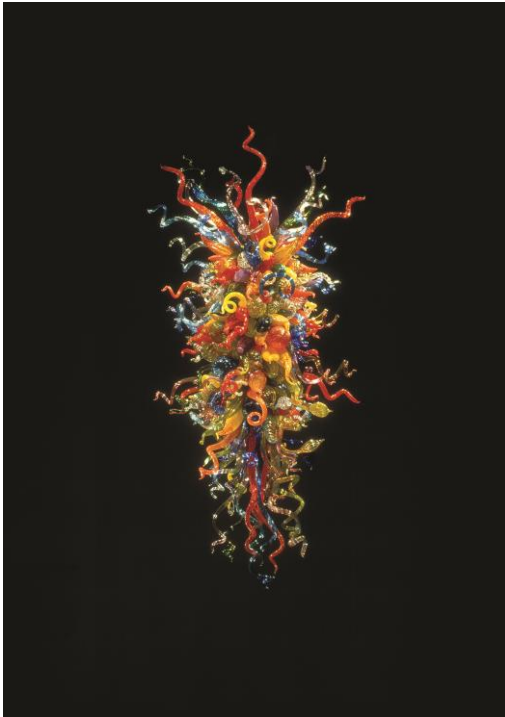
Tacoma, Wash. — In honor of Dale Chihuly’s impact on the Studio Glass movement and his continuing connection to Tacoma and the Pacific Northwest, Museum of Glass is opening *Spotlight on Dale Chihuly: Works from the Museum of Glass Permanent Collection*. The exhibition celebrates Chihuly’s artistic innovation and showcases an intimate selection of his work from the past 50 years.

Dale Chihuly visited Murano, Italy on a Fulbright U.S. Student Grant in 1968 where he was entranced by the fluid movements of the glassblowing teams and their dramatic skills with the medium of glass. Chihuly returned from this trip with a passion for experimentation and collaboration, an attitude which has had a lasting impact on Chihuly’s career, and subsequently, the culture of glassblowing in the Pacific Northwest. The exhibition will provide an artistic primer for visitors to learn about Chihuly’s most iconic series, including the *Gibson Chandelier*, which was given to the Museum by Katie and Drew Gibson in 2013.

Chihuly first began making *Chandeliers* in 1992, and they can be found throughout the world in museums, public installations, and symphony halls. The first Chihuly *Chandeliers* were inspired by fixtures made in eighteenth-century Murano, and are characterized by intricate arabesques of leaves, fruits and flowers, made of colored glass and suspended from a metal frame. At first these chandeliers were modest undertakings, but after Chihuly’s ambitious *Chihuly Over Venice* project, they developed into monumental sculptural installations. The Museum’s *Gibson Chandelier*, with its multi-color components, is known as an “end-of-day” *Chandelier*. At the end of the day, all the left-over components were assembled into an exuberant composition, capturing the energy and spontaneity of Chihuly’s artistic style.

“Dale Chihuly and his work is an important (and often-requested) highlight for visitors to Museum of Glass,” states curator, Katie Buckingham. “Chihuly’s prominence in the Studio Glass movement, and his importance to our region, gives us the opportunity to celebrate the attitude of exploration and teamwork which makes Chihuly’s legacy so important to the Pacific Northwest.”

The exhibition opens October 14.



**Dale Chihuly (American, born 1941)**

*Gibson Chandelier, 2000*

Glass

128 x 79 inches

Collection of Museum of Glass, gift of Katie and Drew Gibson

### **About Museum of Glass**

Located in Tacoma, Washington, Museum of Glass is a premier contemporary art museum dedicated to glass and glassmaking in the west coast’s largest and most active museum glass studio. Opened in 2002, the Museum has established a reputation for hosting impactful and engaging artist residencies, organizing nationally traveling exhibitions, and creating unique programs for visitors while building a growing permanent collection chronicling the contemporary glass art movement. Museum of Glass provides an environment for artists and the public to ignite creativity, fuel discovery, and enrich their lives through glass and glassmaking. Museum of Glass is a non-profit organization sponsored in part by the City of Tacoma Arts Commission, ArtsFund, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, The Dimmer Family Foundation, and the Driscoll Foundation.



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