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*On behalf of Tacoma Art Museum*

## **Dramatic, Redesigned Installation Offers New Perspective on Dale Chihuly's Glass at Tacoma Art Museum**

TACOMA, WA (July 15, 2022) – Be enchanted all over again with your favorite artworks by Dale Chihuly in an updated installation that opened recently. Contemporary design and dramatic lighting provide a new setting to showcase this important collection.

# CHIHULY

AT TACOMA ART MUSEUM

“This reinstatement is more comprehensive than just changing how things are displayed. We wanted to shift the ways in which visitors relate to these artworks,” said David Setford, executive director of Tacoma Art Museum. “Chihuly’s work sweeps you up into a fantasy world of color and

form and we wanted the gallery to enhance that experience. It’s not just a line of objects in a case. We’ve set the works free.”

*Chihuly at Tacoma Art Museum* celebrates the museum’s long relationship with the artist and his deep connections to his Northwest home. Chihuly, born in Tacoma in 1941, pushes the glass medium to its limits, taking sculpture onto walls and ceilings, suspended from bridges, perched in natural outdoor settings, and transformed into spectacular, large-scale installations.

Many of the works on view were gifted by Chihuly in 1990 in honor of his parents, Viola and George, and his brother, George W. Chihuly. In 2003, when Tacoma Art Museum opened its new building, Chihuly added seven new works to the collection, and in 2006, he installed the museum’s much-loved *Ma Chihuly’s Floats* which he later gifted in honor of his mother. *Chihuly at Tacoma Art Museum* also includes additional works by Chihuly that were the gift of other donors, notably his longtime friend and patron Anne Gould Hauberg.

The Chihuly collection has been on long-term view at TAM and as it has grown, cases and pedestals have been added to accommodate new works. However, the gallery had become crowded and individual works were hard to appreciate. Staff across the museum recognized the need for the collection to be presented in a new, engaging way. Select contributions and ideas on how to best reintroduce the collection to visitors were incorporated into the final designs. The museum’s exhibition designer and lead preparator created a new vision for the gallery that incorporates Dale Chihuly’s love of natural textures and materials and highlights the rich colors and evocative forms for which he is acclaimed. It also provided the opportunity to rethink relationships between works.

The textures on the pedestals and stands were created using *shou sugi ban*, a Japanese architectural technique for preserving wood by charring the surface with fire. The gallery walls have been painted black and the artworks rest on black Plexiglas to reflect light and color. Individual series (e.g. *Cylinders*, *Seaforms*, *Macchia*) are grouped to show the variations Chihuly has achieved and to demonstrate the evolution of his work from simpler basket shapes to dramatic sculptures. A new seating area allows visitors to be surrounded by the works and sit in contemplation, chat with friends, or browse through information on Chihuly's extensive and innovative career.

*Chihuly at Tacoma Art Museum* is on continual view at TAM, made possible in part by the generous support of Liliane and Christian Haub, Georg Haub and Propel Insurance.

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### **About Tacoma Art Museum**

Celebrating over 85 years, Tacoma Art Museum is the leading resource for art of the Pacific Northwest and greater western region. TAM's mission is to transform our communities by sharing art that inspires broader perspectives and cultivates a compassionate future. TAM's collection contains more than 5,300 works, 15% of which consists of studio glass. The collection includes a large retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on continual view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. TAM is in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District, which consists of six museums, including the Museum of Glass, a leader and frequent partner.

**Hours:** Wednesday and Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; FREE Neighborhood Nights every Thursday 5-8 p.m.

**Admission:** \$18 Adult, \$15 Senior (65+); free for TAM Members, children 18 and under, and active duty military, reservists, veterans and their families.

**Contact:** 253-272-4258 / [www.tacomaartmuseum.org](http://www.tacomaartmuseum.org)

### **About Chihuly**

Dale Chihuly is an American artist noted for revolutionizing the studio glass movement and elevating perceptions of the medium. Known for ambitious architectural installations in cities, museums and gardens around the world, Chihuly utilizes a variety of media to realize his creative vision, including glass, paint, charcoal, neon, ice and Polyvitro. **Chihuly Studio** supports the artist's vision and creates art experiences that momentarily shift reality and liberate imagination. Major exhibitions include *Chihuly Over Venice* (1995-96), *Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem* (1999), *de Young Museum in San Francisco* (2008), *Museum of Fine Arts, Boston* (2011), *Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond* (2012), *Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada* (2013), *Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada* (2016), *Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas* (2017), *Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands* (2018), *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London, U.K* (2019), *Gardens by the Bay,*

**TACOMA  
ART  
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Singapore (2020), and Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona (2021). *Chihuly Garden and Glass*, a long-term exhibition located at the Seattle Center, opened in 2012. [www.chihuly.com](http://www.chihuly.com).