

Glass artist shows work in 2 galleries

Dale Chihuly's one-artist show at Habatat Galleries, 2325 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, includes new works inspired by organic forms of life in the ocean. He is also one of the glass artists featured in the new book, "GLASS State of the Art 1984" by Ferdinand Hampton, director of Habatat Galleries of Lathrup Village.

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

"People sometimes say, 'Glass is glorious,'" artist Dale Chihuly said.

"I just love the material. I like the way it can be blown. No other (material) does that."

As one of the foremost American glass artists today, the 42-year-old Chihuly has revealed in the glory of glass. Some of his recent works will be on display through June at the University of Michigan-Dearborn library on Evergreen Road.

The pieces are on loan from private collections in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Southfield, Grosse Pointe Shores, Dearborn Heights, Detroit and other neighboring communities.

Other recent works by Chihuly will be on display through July 7 at Habatat Galleries, 2325 Southfield in Lathrup Village.

WHILE ATTENDING the opening reception of the exhibit at U-M-Dearborn last week, Chihuly found it difficult to describe his work.

"All my glass is asymmetrical," he said. "I work with fire and gravity and centrifugal elements. I try to bring that out in the glass-blowing process."

Chihuly's art works are the result of a cooperative effort, he said. The artist works with fellow craftsmen who originally were his students.

"I sometimes compare it to film making, like a director to making a film," he said. "I don't make them by myself."

THE PIECES on exhibit in Dearborn are a variety of shapes and colors, from soft rose to vivid blue. One piece may combine turquoise and brown, rose and gray or pink and white. Others are described as red or purple "with enhancements." The largest work is approximately 23 inches wide. Some pieces are arranged in groupings.

Among those on display are samples from the "macchia" series. "Macchia" is Italian for "spotted," Chihuly explained. These colorful works almost resemble cloth with their folds and flowing lines.

Included are two works from Chihuly's "Indian blanket cylinder" series. These were inspired by In-

dian blankets, as his "basket" series were inspired by Indian baskets. In making the former, Chihuly rolled cylinders of blown glass over designs resembling miniature blankets that he had woven from glass filaments. Two in the exhibit are 5.5 and 10 inches high.

Chihuly's inspirations for art works come from other works and traveling, he said. The award-winning artist has traveled throughout Europe.

"YOU NEVER duplicate it," he said. "I rely a lot on circumstances. I would like to control them, but I can't. You don't know (how a work will turn out) until you're actually done."

"The process is very inspiring. We make them the same way they were made 2,000 years ago. It's exciting to see the glass in such an environment."

In earlier centuries, glass was so prized that rulers of countries went to extremes to try to keep its secrets, Chihuly said.

"No individual artist had the opportunity to work with glass," he said. "In Italy, artists who left were executed. In England, they were knighted. This studio glass movement didn't get started until 1962."

A NATIVE OF Tacoma, Wash., Chihuly graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in interior design. He worked as a designer for architects in Seattle, but concentrated on experiments and projects in stained glass. A year later, he abandoned his career as a designer and worked in Alaska as a commercial fisherman to earn money for graduate school.

U-M-Dearborn Library hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and 1:30 to 6 p.m. Sundays.



Dale Chihuly has created a large body of prized works in glass in his lifetime. Many of them seem born of organic forms with their shell-like delicacy. The artist was intrigued by American Indian blankets for several years.

Photos by DAN DEAN
staff photographer



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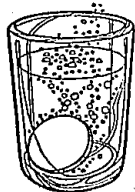
Correction

In the May 31 story of the Southfield house done by interior designer Barbi Goodman of the Colorworks Design Studio of Southfield, a mix-up of pronouns led to a possible misunderstanding.

The impression was that Goodman, her family and her clients all lived in the same house.

Not so. The family that live in the beautiful house are an entity separate from their interior designer, who also has her own home.

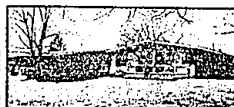
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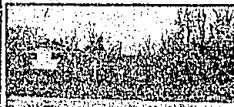
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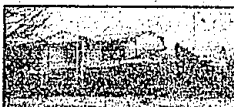
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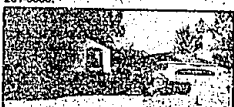
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