

CHIHULY

STUDIO

Dale Chihuly | Chronology

- 1941 Born September 20 in Tacoma, Washington, to George Chihuly and Viola Magnuson Chihuly.
- 1957 Older brother and only sibling, George, dies in a navy flight-training accident in Pensacola, Florida.
- 1958 His father suffers a fatal heart attack at age fifty-one, and his mother has to go to work.
- 1959 Graduates from high school in Tacoma. Enrolls at College of Puget Sound (now University of Puget Sound) in his hometown.
- 1960 Transfers to University of Washington in Seattle, where he studies interior design and architecture.
- 1961 Joins Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity and becomes rush chairman. Learns to melt and fuse glass.
- 1962 Interrupts his studies and travels to Florence to focus on art. Frustrated by his inability to speak Italian, he moves on to the Middle East.
- 1963 Works on a kibbutz in Negev desert, Israel. Reinspired, returns to University of Washington and studies under Hope Foote and Warren Hill. In a weaving class with Doris Brockway, incorporates glass shards into woven tapestries.
- 1964 Returns to Europe, visiting Leningrad and making the first of many trips to Ireland.
- 1965 Receives BA in interior design from University of Washington. In his basement studio, blows his first glass bubble by melting stained glass and using a metal pipe.
- 1966 Earns money for graduate school as a commercial fisherman in Alaska. Enters University of Wisconsin at Madison on a full scholarship, to study glassblowing in the first glass program in the United States, taught by Harvey Littleton.
- 1967 After receiving MS in sculpture from University of Wisconsin, enrolls at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in Providence, where he begins exploration of environmental works using neon, argon, and blown glass. Awarded a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant for work in glass. Artist Italo Scanga lectures at RISD, and the two start a lifelong friendship.
- 1968 Receives MFA from RISD. Spends the first of four consecutive summers teaching at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine. A Fulbright Fellowship awarded earlier in the year enables him to work and study in Europe. Becomes the first American glassblower to work in the prestigious Venini factory, on the island of Murano.
- 1969 Makes pilgrimages to meet glass masters Erwin Eisch in Germany and Jaroslava Brychtová and Stanislav Libenský and his wife, Jaroslava Brychtová, in Czechoslovakia. Establishes the glass program at RISD, where he teaches for the next eleven years.
- 1970 Meets James Carpenter, a student in RISD Illustration Department, and they begin a four-year collaboration.

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- 1971 On the site of a tree farm north of Seattle owned by art patrons Anne Gould Hauberg and John Hauberg, the Pilchuck Glass School experiment is started. *Pilchuck Pond*, Chihuly's first environmental installation at the school, is created that summer. In the fall, at RISD, he makes *20,000 Pounds of Ice and Neon*, *Glass Forest #1*, and *Glass Forest #2* with James Carpenter, installations that prefigure later environmental works by Chihuly.
- 1972 Collaborates with James Carpenter on more large-scale architectural projects. They create *Rondel Door* and *Cast Glass Door* at Pilchuck. In Providence, they have a conceptual breakthrough with *Dry Ice*, *Bent Glass and Neon*.
- 1974 Works with James Carpenter and a group of students at Pilchuck to develop a technique for picking up glass thread drawings and incorporating them into larger glass pieces.
- 1975 At RISD, begins *Navajo Blanket Cylinder* series. Kate Elliott and, later, Flora C. Mace fabricate the complex thread drawings for his artwork. He receives the first of two National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artists' Fellowships. Becomes artist-in-residence with Seaver Leslie at Artpark, an annual arts program on the Niagara Gorge in New York State. Begins *Irish Cylinders* and *Ulysses Cylinders* with Leslie and Mace.
- 1976 An automobile accident in England leaves him, after weeks in the hospital and 256 stitches in his face, without sight in his left eye and with permanent damage to his right ankle and foot. After recuperating, he returns to Providence to serve as head of the Department of Sculpture and the Program in Glass at RISD. Henry Geldzahler, curator of contemporary art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, acquires three *Navajo Blanket Cylinders* for the museum's collection—a turning point in Chihuly's career and the start of the artist's friendship with both the curator and the museum director then, Thomas Hoving.
- 1977 His *Basket* series—inspired by Northwest Coast Indian baskets he sees at Washington State History Museum in Tacoma—is first made at Pilchuck with Benjamin Moore as gaffer and exhibited at Seattle Art Museum. Continues teaching at both RISD and Pilchuck.
- 1978 Meets Pilchuck student William Morris, and the two begin a close, eight-year working relationship. A solo show at the Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., is another career milestone.
- 1979 Dislocates his shoulder in a bodysurfing accident and relinquishes the gaffer position for good. William Morris becomes his chief gaffer for several years. Chihuly begins to make drawings as a way to communicate his designs.
- 1980 Resigns his teaching position at RISD but returns periodically in the 1980s as artist-in-residence. Begins *Seaform* series. Creates his first architectural commission: windows for Shaare Emeth Synagogue in St. Louis.
- 1981 Begins *Macchia* series.
- 1982 First catalog is published: *Chihuly Glass*, designed by RISD colleague and friend Malcolm Gear.
- 1983 Returns to Pacific Northwest after sixteen years on the East Coast.

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- 1984 Begins work on *Soft Cylinder* series, with Flora C. Mace and Joey Kirkpatrick executing the glass drawings. Honored as RISD President's Fellow at the Whitney Museum in New York.
- 1985 Purchases the Buffalo Shoe Company Building just east of Lake Union in Seattle and begins restoring it for use as his studio.
- 1986 Begins *Persian* series with Martin Blank as gaffer, assisted by Robbie Miller. Establishes his first hotshop in Van de Kamp Building near Lake Union in Seattle. *Dale Chihuly Objets de Verre* opens at Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Palais du Louvre, in Paris.
- 1987 Donates permanent collection to Tacoma Art Museum in memory of his brother and father (adding works to the collection years later in memory of his mother). Marries playwright Sylvia Peto.
- 1988 Inspired by Italian Art Deco glass, begins *Venetian* series with Italian glass master Lino Tagliapietra, working from Chihuly's drawings; Benjamin Moore also plays a very important role, including translator.
- 1989 With Lino Tagliapietra and fellow glass master Pino Signoretto, as well as a team of glassblowers, begins *Putti* series at Pilchuck. With Tagliapietra, Chihuly creates *Ikebana* series, inspired by travels to Japan and exposure to ikebana masters.
- 1990 Purchases historic Pocock Building located on Lake Union, realizing his dream of being on the water in Seattle. Renovated and renamed the Boathouse, it serves as studio and hotshop. Returns to Japan.
- 1991 Begins *Niijima Float* series with Richard Royal as gaffer, creating some of the largest pieces of glass ever blown by hand. Chihuly and Sylvia Peto divorce.
- 1992 Begins *Chandelier* series with a hanging sculpture at Seattle Art Museum. Designs sets for Seattle Opera's 1993 production of Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*.
- 1993 With Lino Tagliapietra, begins *Piccolo Venetian* series. Creates *100,000 Pounds of Ice and Neon*, a temporary installation in Tacoma Dome.
- 1994 Creates five installations for Tacoma's Union Station Federal Courthouse. Supports Hilltop Artists, a glassblowing program in Tacoma for at-risk youths, created by friend Kathy Kaperick. Within two years, the program partners with Tacoma Public School District.
- 1995 An international project, *Chihuly Over Venice*, begins with a glassblowing session in Nuutajärvi, Finland, and subsequent blow at Waterford Crystal factory, Ireland.
- 1996 After a blow in Monterrey, Mexico, *Chihuly Over Venice* culminates with the installation of fourteen *Chandeliers* around Venice and a glassblowing session with Pino Signoretto and Lino Tagliapietra on Murano. Creates his first permanent outdoor installation, *Icicle Creek Chandelier*, for Sleeping Lady resort in Leavenworth, Washington.
- 1997 Expands series of experimental plastics he calls Polyvitro. Travels to Japan to blow glass at Niijima Glass Art Center and creates several temporary outdoor Float

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- installations. Travels with his team to a glass factory in Vianne, France, and they work with local glassblowers to create new works, some using industrial molds.
- 1998 Participates in Sydney Arts Festival in Australia. A son, Jackson Viola Chihuly, is born February 12 to Dale Chihuly and Leslie Jackson. Creates architectural installations for Benaroya Hall, Seattle; Bellagio, Las Vegas; and Atlantis, Bahamas.
- 1999 Begins *Jerusalem Cylinder* series with gaffer James Mongrain. Chihuly starts an ambitious exhibition, *Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem 2000*, at Tower of David Museum of the History of Jerusalem. Just outside the museum, builds a sixty-foot-long wall made of twenty-four massive blocks of ice shipped from Alaska.
- 2000 Creates *La Tour de Lumière* sculpture as part of *Contemporary American Sculpture* exhibition in Monte Carlo. More than one million visitors enter Tower of David Museum to see *Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem 2000*, breaking the world attendance record for a temporary exhibition during 1999–2000.
- 2001 *Chihuly at the V&A* opens at Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Artist Italo Scanga dies after more than three decades as friend and mentor. *Chihuly in the Park: A Garden of Glass*, at Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, begins *Garden Cycle*, a series of exhibitions in conservatories and gardens.
- 2002 Creates large-scale installations for Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. Chihuly Bridge of Glass is dedicated in Tacoma; conceived by Chihuly and designed in collaboration with Arthur Andersson of Andersson•Wise Architects, it is a pedestrian overpass featuring three permanent installations of Chihuly's work.
- 2003 Begins *Fiori* series with gaffer Joey DeCamp and creates first *Mille Fiori*, for exhibition at Tacoma Art Museum. A garden exhibition opens at Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2004 Orlando Museum of Art and Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Florida, collaborate and present complementary exhibitions of Chihuly's work. Installs garden exhibition at Atlanta Botanical Garden.
- 2005 Marries Leslie Jackson. Installs garden exhibition at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, outside London. Exhibits at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Coral Gables, Florida.
- 2006 Mother, Viola, dies at age ninety-eight in Tacoma. Between April and June, begins *Black* series; exhibits at Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis; begins *Clear* series; and exhibits at New York Botanical Garden. *Chihuly in Tacoma*— a weeklong residency featuring hotshop sessions at Museum of Glass—reunites Chihuly and glassblowers from important periods of his career.
- 2007 Exhibits at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Pittsburgh. Creates stage set for Seattle Symphony's production of Béla Bartók's opera, *Bluebeard's Castle*; the set will be used for years in productions in several American cities as well as in Tel Aviv, Israel.

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- 2008 Presents exhibition at de Young Museum, San Francisco. Returns to his alma mater with an exhibition at RISD Museum of Art. Exhibits at Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix.
- 2009 Begins *Silvered* series. Participates in 53rd Venice Biennale with *Mille Fiori Venezia* installation. Returns to Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus, Ohio, with new garden exhibition. Creates commission with multiple installations at island resort of Sentosa, Singapore.
- 2010 Creates temporary installations outdoors at Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. Presents exhibitions at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art, Nashville. Begins *White* series.
- 2011 Holds exhibitions at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Tacoma Art Museum.
- 2012 Exhibits at Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. *Chihuly Garden and Glass* opens at Seattle Center; the long-term exhibition of the artist's work features gallery spaces, a sculpture garden, and a glasshouse designed by Chihuly. Exhibits at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond.
- 2013 Montreal Museum of Fine Arts holds exhibition of Chihuly art. Begins *Rotolo* series with gaffer James Mongrain. With Seaver Leslie, revisits the *Irish Cylinders* from nearly forty years ago with new *Ulysses Cylinders* inspired by the James Joyce novel.
- 2014 At Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, Little Rock, Arkansas, displays temporary installations. Exhibition opens at Denver Botanic Gardens. Shows the new *Ulysses Cylinders* at Dublin Castle in Ireland.
- 2015 An exhibition of Chihuly's drawings opens at Museum of Glass, Tacoma. The Toyama Glass Art Museum, in Toyama, Japan, commissions permanent installations of his work.
- 2016 Returns to Atlanta Botanical Garden. Exhibits at Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. Chihuly's set for the opera *Bluebeard's Castle* appears in a production in Portland, Oregon.