

# LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

*Chihuly: Four Decades of Iconic Work*



Dale Chihuly  
*Fluorite Violet Pheasant Macchia Set with Bright  
Red Lip Wraps, 2002*  
Blown glass  
11 x 22 x 15"  
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Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the first extensive exhibition by internationally renowned artist Dale Chihuly in the United Arab Emirates; *Chihuly: Four Decades of Iconic Work*, opening the 25th of February 2024.

*Chihuly: Four Decades of Iconic Work*, showcases works spanning nearly a 40-year period from 1985–2023 and celebrates both the monumental installations and more discrete works for which Chihuly is known. The collection features two new large-scale installations and over 50 sculptures in glass, as well as two-dimensional works, connecting various series and decades. Synthesizing ideas and practices of the Studio Glass Movement in North America as well as the traditions of the Venetian Ateliers, Chihuly's ambitious six-decade long career has set the bar for glass in contemporary art and redefined the vernacular of abstraction.

From his iconic *Baskets* and delicate *Seaforms*, to the colorful *Macchia*, dynamic *Soft Cylinders*, and mesmerizing *Persians*, each piece in this exhibition embodies Chihuly's innovative techniques, bold use of color, and captivating forms.

A beacon within the exhibition, Chihuly's *Tower* and *Persian Wall* installations are monumental glass sculptures that redefine the spaces in which they are placed. Whether kaleidoscopic marvels or monochromatic wonders, they cast a spellbinding dance of light and shadow, reshaping environments with their luminous presence.

Also showcased are Chihuly's *Drawings* and *Light Drawings*, providing a window into the genesis of his creations. These two-dimensional marvels vividly translate his visionary spirit into a riot of colors and dynamic forms, weaving a tapestry of inspiration.

Chihuly's creations continue to enrapture audiences worldwide, and this presentation of works stands as a testament to his lifelong pursuit of pushing the boundaries of glass artistry. *Chihuly: Four Decades of Iconic Work* is a promise of inspiration, enchantment, and endless wonder.

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born and raised in the state of Washington, US, Dale Chihuly established the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) glass program and the influential Pilchuck Glass School, which together have shaped pedagogy and trained many of the Studio Glass movement's most recognized names. While Chihuly is well known for his ambitious architectural installations and other soaring creations, his earliest work in glass began on a more intimate scale, weaving small fragments of glass into tapestries. His constant evolution and expansion from that early point are a testament to the extraordinary creativity that has set him apart as the world's most prominent glass sculptor. With a career spanning nearly six decades, Chihuly has revolutionized the art of glassblowing, pushing the boundaries of the medium and creating some of the most iconic works of contemporary art.

His work has been exhibited and resides in prominent institutions around the world, including the Smithsonian, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs at the Palais du Louvre, and the National Gallery of Australia, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Major exhibitions include *Chihuly Over Venice* (1995–96), *Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem* (1999–2000), 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 (2013), Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto (2016), Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas (2017), Groninger Museum, Groningen, the Netherlands (2018), Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London (2019), and *Gardens by the Bay*, Singapore (2021). *Chihuly Garden and Glass*, a long-term exhibition opened in Seattle in 2012.

#### ABOUT THE GALLERY

Since its establishment over four decades ago in New York, Leila Heller Gallery has gained worldwide recognition as a pioneer in promoting a creative dialogue and exchange between Western artists and Middle Eastern, Central and Southeast Asian artists. It has garnered a reputation for identifying and cultivating the careers of artists leaving a lasting impact on contemporary art and culture. Currently representing a diverse roster of Western, Central Asian, Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern artists, the gallery is also active in the American, European, and Middle Eastern secondary art markets. In November 2015, Leila Heller Gallery opened its first international location in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue. At 16,000 square feet, the state of the art gallery features three exhibition spaces, making it the largest gallery in the UAE. Showcasing leading regional and international artists, many of whom will be presenting their work in the Middle East. In addition to presenting a dynamic exhibition schedule, Leila Heller Gallery actively organizes shows with world renowned curators, hosts educational panels and film screenings, and produces catalogs and books with scholarly essays. Each year the gallery participates in major international art fairs and stages off-site projects as a platform for exploring new conversations within a wider context of galleries, artists and institutions.