

# NYBG

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## **New *CHIHULY* Experience at The New York Botanical Garden Dazzles with Color, Light, and Form, April 22 through October 29, 2017**

First Major Garden Exhibition in New York in More Than Ten Years by Artist Dale Chihuly  
Features Breathtaking Works of Art That Reveal His Innovation and Celebrate His Legacy



Dale Chihuly, *Sapphire Star*, 2017



Dale Chihuly, *White Tower with Fiori*, 2017

**Bronx, NY**—*CHIHULY*, a major new exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden, presented by Bank of America, spotlights world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly's bold innovation in a variety of media throughout his celebrated career. Chihuly's first major garden exhibition in New York in more than ten years features more than 20 installations and includes drawings and early works that reveal the evolution and development of his artistic process. Set within NYBG's landmark landscape and buildings, this exhibition is a must-see throughout the changing seasons. *CHIHULY* runs from April 22 through October 29, 2017.

The Garden's dramatic vistas become living canvases for work created specifically for NYBG, showcasing Chihuly's signature organic shapes in brilliant colors. Among the singular sights is a monumental reimagination of his storied 1975 installation at upstate New York's Artpark: three new works—*Koda* studies—enliven the water features of the Native Plant Garden and the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Courtyard's Tropical Pool, reflecting the interplay and movement of color and light.

Special weekend celebrations, films, poetry, and fun-filled art programs for kids offer colorful

and imaginative tributes to nature. On *CHIHULY* Nights, the exhibition is infused with a magical energy as the artworks are spectacularly illuminated amid NYBG's sweeping vistas and magnificent Conservatory.

"The New York Botanical Garden is the perfect setting for Dale Chihuly's art," said Gregory Long, Chief Executive Officer and The William C. Steere Sr. President of NYBG. "Our historic landscape is an open-air museum, providing a thrilling opportunity for our visitors to see the spectacular installations, especially when they will be lit at night. The exhibition will be a more holistic look at the legacy of Chihuly the artist. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors and everyone whose support is making it possible for us to bring this experience to our existing and new audiences."

"The New York Botanical Garden's *CHIHULY* exhibition exemplifies our support of non-profit arts institutions that deliver the arts and enrich societies," said Rena De Sisto, Global Arts and Culture Executive, Bank of America. "It supports our belief that the arts matter by providing inspirational and educational sustenance, anchoring communities, creating jobs, complementing school curricula, and generating substantial revenue for local businesses."

### **Installations Throughout the Botanical Garden Celebrate Chihuly's Artistic Legacy**

Dale Chihuly, an artist whose ideas are aligned with the great 20th-century abstract artists of his generation, celebrated his 75th birthday last year. This exhibition, showcasing his dynamic works of art, dazzles with color, light, and form—by day and night.

*CHIHULY* features hand-blown glass sculptures, complementing NYBG's landscape and architecture. Glass, however, is not the only medium Chihuly employs to carry out his vision. As stated by Leslie Jackson Chihuly, President and CEO of Chihuly Studio, "Dale began his journey as an artist more than a half century ago, and he continues to push boundaries and innovate in a variety of media, including paint, sculpture, polyvitro, glass, and neon. He and our team have prepared for this exhibition with the goal of surprising and delighting audiences with exciting new works and installations created specifically for NYBG."

In an homage to the 2006 exhibition at NYBG, Chihuly's *Blue Herons* are featured in a new display within the Haupt Conservatory, itself considered a work of glass art. These graceful forms will be one of many examples of Chihuly sculptures seen within the grand architecture of the landmark Victorian-style glasshouse.

Legendary works such as Chihuly's *Tower* and *Chandelier* series are presented in new configurations. Three bold colored sculptures hang overhead in the Leon Levy Visitor Center—*Cypress Green Chandelier*, *Mineral Blue Chandelier*, and *Peridot Green Chandelier*. The Conservatory is the location of additional impressive installations—*White Tower with Fiori* in one of the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries*, a new interpretation of Chihuly's *Macchia Forest* in

the Conservatory's *Aquatic Plants and Vines Gallery*, and the *Scarlet and Yellow Icicle Tower* in the Conservatory Courtyard.

The exhibition also boasts a dramatic neon sculpture. As a graduate student in the late 1960s and then as a professor at Rhode Island School of Design, Chihuly pioneered distinctive applications of neon in his early work. This innovation continued into the '80s and '90s, leading to the *Tumbleweed*, a major element in his exhibitions. During Chihuly's blockbuster show at NYBG in 2006, his first garden presentation in New York City, he further explored his work in the medium with the development of his first *Neon Tower*. In the Conservatory Courtyard, Chihuly uses the medium again in a new multicolor installation, *Neon 206*, taking advantage of the iconic venue's reflective qualities.

On Garden Way, one of many scenic paths through NYBG's lauded landscape, *Sapphire Star* sparkles. In the Lillian Goldman Fountain of Life in front of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building, visitors can see *Blue Polyvitro Crystals*. *Palazzo Ducale Tower* and other works are on view inside. These one-of-a-kind installations will delight longtime fans and those discovering Chihuly's art for the first time.

### **New Work Inspired by Chihuly's 1975 Artpark Installation**

The water features in the Native Plant Garden and the Conservatory Courtyard's Tropical Pool are the settings for dramatic new artworks inspired by Chihuly's summer 1975 Artpark installation when he collaborated with Seaver Leslie to create temporary outdoor works in Lewiston, New York, near Niagara Falls. Using sheets of stained glass, the installations were designed to provide contrast between the glass and the surrounding environment, resulting in a physical expression of light.

Now at The New York Botanical Garden, Chihuly revisits this concept to create three new compositions—*Koda Study #1* and *Koda Study #2* in the Native Plant Garden and *Koda Study #3* in the Conservatory Courtyard. The new works—made of polycarbonate sheets—provide a rare opportunity to view the stunning effects of reflection and light created by these colored panels as day transitions to night.

### **Chihuly's Early Works on Display in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building**

In the Art Gallery of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, visitors will see an exhibition of Dale Chihuly's early works, including glass series and works on paper. Drawing and painting on paper have been a consistent form of expression for the artist throughout his career, both as a means of communicating with his team and as their own creative outlet.



Dale Chihuly's early works on display in the Art Gallery

On the 6th floor of the Mertz Library Building, Chihuly presents a grouping of *Fire Orange Baskets*, graceful forms first developed in 1977, evoking Northwest Native American baskets. He made use of the effects of gravity, as it shaped and distorted the medium, creating uniquely asymmetrical artworks. These seemingly effortless sculptures first began in muted colors, typical of the Native American baskets after which they were named, gradually evolving in color and size.

Chihuly continues to explore this series and experiment with scale, color, and composition. The baskets on view at NYBG are among the largest Chihuly has created.

On the Library Building's 4th floor, two acrylic paintings are part of a display that includes *Palazzo Ducale Tower*, one of the most recognizable works from the monumental *Chihuly Over Venice* exhibition in 1996.

### **NYBG CHIHULY Interactive Guide, Made Possible by Bloomberg Philanthropies**

The NYBG *CHIHULY* Interactive Guide, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, delivers content to handheld devices that is dynamically customized to the user's location, transforming how visitors are guided through the installations. Each installation will appear as an icon on a virtual map. As visitors approach the installations, the Interactive Guide will trigger additional rich contextual information about the artist, artwork, or the process of its creation, as well as immersive 360-degree photography for select works. Another feature of the Interactive Guide will allow visitors to share their own photographed images of the sculptures. Mobile media is generously supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies through its Bloomberg Connects program, a global initiative that helps cultural institutions innovate and engage audiences through digital platforms.

"Through our Bloomberg Connects initiative, we are committed to increasing access to the arts and helping cultural institutions engage audiences," said Patricia E. Harris, CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies. "We are thrilled to be a part of The New York Botanical Garden's evolving strategy of digital interpretation and excited to help launch the NYBG *CHIHULY* Interactive Guide as the next iteration in a string of groundbreaking mobile exhibition guides."

### **CHIHULY Nights and Programming for All Ages**

See the colors and forms of Chihuly's installations in a whole new light during *CHIHULY* Nights as the Garden's vistas and the Conservatory become living canvases for these works of art. After sunset, the atmosphere is thrilling: experience the heightened drama and



luminous quality of Chihuly's colors and forms when lit under the evening sky. In the Visitor Center plaza, a rotating lineup of performing artists and musicians provides entertainment while visitors relax and enjoy shopping, food, and themed cocktails available for purchase.

In the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, young visitors will explore the connections among art, science, and nature through guided activities facilitated by trained Teen Explainers. Using Chihuly's sculptures as references, children will learn about form, color, and light as seen through the prism of nature in the garden. Daily programs will provide opportunities to observe the relationship between science and nature-based artwork and to create nature-inspired art.

### **Stunning Glass Pieces and Limited Edition Prints Available at NYBG Shop**

After touring the Garden and viewing the spectacular *CHIHULY* installations, visitors can continue the exhibition experience at NYBG Shop. Stunning glass pieces from Chihuly Studio will be available for purchase, as well as limited-edition framed prints of the artist's bold, colorful charcoal drawings and paintings and limited-edition blankets from his collaboration with legendary Pendleton Woolen Mills. Visitors will also find a wide range of related products, including books, DVDs, posters, notecards, t-shirts, and puzzles, featuring his distinctive artwork.

### **New Book about Dale Chihuly's Art at NYBG**

*CHIHULY*, a book examining this exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden, will be published by DelMonico Books (Prestel Publishing) in July 2017. Filled with panoramic vistas of Garden landscapes transformed by Chihuly's works, this dazzling celebration of the artist's innovative use of form and color reveals the synergy between his organic shapes and the natural environment. Fascinating essays by Leslie Jackson Chihuly and experts on Chihuly's previous installations are enhanced by archival photographs as well as reproductions of the artist's drawings and early works that are featured in the Mertz Library's Art Gallery. This impressive volume and the exhibition it accompanies illustrate how Chihuly has revolutionized blown glass in both scale and setting.

### **About Dale Chihuly**

Dale Chihuly, an American artist, has mastered the translucent and transparent qualities of ice, water, glass and neon, to create works of art that transform the everyday experience. He is globally renowned for his ambitious site-specific installations in public spaces as well as exhibitions presented in museums and gardens worldwide.

Born in 1941 in Tacoma, Washington, Chihuly was introduced to glass while studying interior design at the University of Washington. After graduating in 1965, Chihuly enrolled in the first glass program in the country, at the University of Wisconsin. He continued his studies at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where he later established the glass program and taught for more than a decade. In 1968, after receiving a Fulbright Fellowship, he went to work at the Venini glass factory in Venice. There he observed the team approach to blowing

glass, which is critical to the way he works today. In 1971, Chihuly cofounded Pilchuck Glass School in Washington State. With this international glass center, Chihuly has led the avant-garde in the development of glass as a fine art. Major exhibitions include *Chihuly Over Venice* (1996); *Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem* (2000); *Garden Cycle* (2001-present); *Chihuly at The New York Botanical Garden* (2006); de Young Museum in San Francisco (2008); the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2011); Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond (2012); Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada (2013); and the Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario, Canada (2016). *Chihuly Garden and Glass* opened at Seattle Center in 2012. Chihuly's lifelong fascination with glasshouses has grown into a series of exhibitions within botanical settings. For more information about Dale Chihuly and his art, please visit [www.chihuly.com](http://www.chihuly.com).

### **About Bank of America Support of the Arts**

Bank of America's support of the arts reflects our belief that the arts matter. They're a powerful tool to help economies thrive, to help individuals connect with each other and across cultures, and to educate and enrich societies. Our Arts and Culture Program is diverse and global, supporting nonprofit arts institutions that deliver the visual and performing arts, provide inspirational and educational sustenance, anchor communities, create jobs and complement existing school offerings, and generate substantial revenue for local businesses. On a global scale, the arts speak to us in a universal language that provides pathways to greater cultural understanding.

### **About The New York Botanical Garden**

The New York Botanical Garden is an iconic living museum and, since its founding in 1891, has served as an oasis in this busy metropolis. A National Historic Landmark, this 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. Each year more than one million visitors enjoy the Garden not only for its remarkable diversity of tropical, temperate, and desert flora, but also for programming that ranges from renowned exhibitions in the Haupt Conservatory to celebrations on Daffodil Hill. The Garden is also a major educational institution, teaching more than 300,000 people annually—among them schoolchildren, teachers, and Bronx families—about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through its hands-on, curriculum-based programming. Over 90,000 of those served by the Garden's education programs are children from underserved neighboring communities, while more than 3,100 are teachers from New York City's public school system participating in professional development programs that train them to teach science courses at all grade levels. NYBG operates one of the world's largest plant research and conservation programs, with nearly 200 staff members—including 80 Ph.D. scientists—working in the Garden's state-of-the-art molecular labs as well as in the field, where they lead programs in 49 countries.

Visit the Garden's Web site, [nybg.org](http://nybg.org), for more information and to purchase tickets.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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