

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chihuly at VMFA

“Prepare to be dazzled,” says Director Alex Nyerges

Internationally renowned artist Dale Chihuly will have a major, site-specific exhibition of his work at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts from October 20, 2012 through February 10, 2013. VMFA’s award-winning and light-infused McGlothlin Wing designed by Rick Mather + SMBW, will provide a dramatic setting for the large scale installations and sculptures by this Seattle-based artist.

“Chihuly is a phenomenon of the art world,” Director Alex Nyerges said. “His magical glass creations have captured the imagination of audiences worldwide, and he is the most popular and recognized artist working in the field today. Indeed, he is one of the most widely-appreciated contemporary artists working in any medium.”

Chihuly’s art remains at the cutting edge of the technical and virtuoso possibilities of glass as a medium. At VMFA he will install work in the 12,000-square-foot special exhibition galleries as well as other parts of the museum. The VMFA exhibition includes many iconic works for which Chihuly is known – *Ikebana*, *Mille Fiori*, *Chandeliers*, *Tabac Baskets*, *Venetians*, *Boats*, *Persian Ceiling* – as well as site specific installations, taking advantage of the soaring atrium and reflecting pools of VMFA’s McGlothlin Wing.

The presentation at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is Chihuly’s third major U.S. museum exhibition in recent years. Record-breaking crowds attended the Chihuly exhibitions at the de Young Museum in San Francisco in 2008 and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 2011. Chihuly is renowned for his ambitious architectural installations around the world, in historic cities, public museums and gardens. Ninety-seven exhibitions in seven countries have presented artworks by the artist during the last decade, which have been enjoyed by more than 10 million visitors. Chihuly is credited with revolutionizing the Studio Glass movement and elevating the medium of glass from the realm of craft to fine art.

About the exhibition:

- TITLE: *Chihuly at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*
- DATES: Oct. 20, 2012 – Feb. 10, 2013
- TICKETS \$20; \$16 for seniors, students with valid ID and groups of 10 or more. Free for members. To go on sale July 1. www.vmfamuseum.com/chihuly or call 804.340.1405.



Persian Ceiling, 2008 ©de Young Museum, San Francisco, Calif. Photo: Teresa Nouri Rishel

- HOTEL PACKAGES: Hotel and travel packages are in development and will be posted at <http://www.visitrichmondva.com/Plan/Hotel-Packages>
- SOUVENIR BOOK: *Chihuly | Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* (working title), Details TBA.
- SPONSORS: Presenting Sponsor: Altria Group, Inc.

About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

With a collection of art that spans the globe and more than 5,000 years, plus a wide array of special exhibitions, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) is recognized as one of the top comprehensive art museums in the United States. The museum's permanent collection encompasses more than 23,000 works of art, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside Russia and one of the nation's finest collections of American Art, Art Nouveau and Art Deco. VMFA is home to acclaimed collections of English Silver and Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British Sporting and Modern & Contemporary art, as well as renowned South Asian, Himalayan and African art. In May 2010, VMFA opened its doors to the public after a transformative expansion, the largest in its 75-year history. Programs include educational activities and studio classes for all ages, plus fun after-hours events. VMFA's Statewide Partnership program includes traveling exhibitions, artist and teacher workshops, and lectures across the Commonwealth. VMFA is open 365 days a year and general admission is always free. For additional information, telephone 804-340-1400 or visit www.vmfa.museum.

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Note: Video of Dale Chihuly demonstrating in his studio can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/virginiamuseum>. B-roll is available for web posting by contacting VMFA's communications office.

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