

Dale Chihuly's "End of Day", 1996

Study Paper by Peggy Porter, November, 2016



"Sculpture on Fire" - Dale Chihuly (1941- present) is America's preeminent glass artist. He leads the US studio glass movement.

His END OF DAY (1996) on the Palm Springs Art Museum mezzanine contains two hundred glass elements carefully wired to a steel armature to create this standing chandelier. The installation is titled END OF DAY because each of the two hundred organically shaped glass elements remained from Chihuly's Chandelier Project in Venice. These elements were blown by glass artists in Ireland, Finland, Mexico and Italy. There were fifteen installations in Venice over piazzas and canals called " Chihuly

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Over Venice". All of the pieces in our installation were left over, at the end of day from this exhibition.

END OF DAY has brilliant colors, shine and varying shapes. The glass is a magical material that transmits light. There is a free spirit and variety of forms. His works have been described as "recklessly whimsical."

Chihuly's path to avant garde glass artist began with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interior Design from University of Washington in 1965. He then attended University of Wisconsin for a Master of Science in sculpture two years later. The following year he received a Master of Fine Art from Rhode Island School of Design. In 1969 he used his Fulbright scholarship to study at the Venini glasshouse in Murano, Italy. He credits this experience with changing his ideas about glassblowing forever. Chihuly taught at RISD for eleven years and began their glass blowing program.

Returning to the US in 1971, he founded the Pilchuck Glass School, fifty miles north of Seattle. Today Pulchuck is the world's leading art school for glass work.

Several unfortunate accidents prevent Chihuly from blowing glass today. In 1976 he lost sight in one eye due to a car accident and in 1979 while body surfing he dislocated his shoulder. His art work today is done by a team of gaffers from Chihuly's instructions.

This year Dale Chihuly has exhibits at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. He also exhibits his drawings of installations and future projects.

Bibliography:

www.chihuly.com

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