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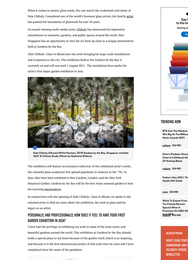
MAGNIFYING THE WORLD OF ART THROUGH GLASS: AN INTERVIEW WITH DALE CHIHULY

Photo/Text/Interpretation: Yvette Lee



Dale Chihuly, Pu Nualoma, Seattle, WWW-O-Chihuly Studio

Where it comes to artistic glass works, few can match the credentials and talent of Dale Chihuly. Considered one of the world's foremost glass artists, the Seattle artist has produced hundreds of pieces for over 50 years.

In award-winning work media artist, Chihuly has showcased his impressive miscellaneous accomplishments, gardens, and public spaces around the world. Now Singapore has an opportunity to view his art from up close in a unique presentation at Gardens by the Bay.

Dale Chihuly visits the Mission and the artist behind the large scale installations and sculptures in the city. The exhibition held at the Gardens by the Bay is currently on and will end until 1 August 2017. The installation here marks the artist's first major garden exhibition in Asia.

Dale Chihuly, Pu Nualoma, Seattle, WWW-O-Chihuly Studio

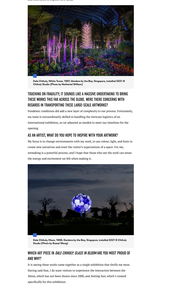
Dale Chihuly, Chihuly Studio, Seattle, WWW-O-Chihuly Studio

The exhibited pieces feature an extensive selection of the celebrated artist's works. Visitors will be able to see the Chihuly Installation at the Gardens by the Bay, Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle, Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle, and the New York Botanical Garden. Gardens by the Bay will be the first Asian national garden to host the renowned installation.

In conjunction with the opening of Dale Chihuly: Glass in Bloom, we spoke to the celebrated artist to find out more about the exhibition, his work in glass and his inspirations.

PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE YOUR FIRST GARDEN EXHIBITION IN ASIA?

I have had the privilege of exhibiting my work in some of the most iconic and beautiful gardens around the world. This exhibition in Gardens by the Bay already holds a special place in my heart because of the gardens itself, which is so inspiring, and because it is the first international exhibition of my work that my team and I have completed since the onset of the pandemic.



Dale Chihuly, 2015 © Chihuly Studio

THE PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED THE WAY WE HAVE APPROACH TRAVEL, ESPECIALLY EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS. AS AN ARTIST WHO DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO GRASP FROM WORK IN PHYSICAL SPACE AGAIN?

I am eager to share my work with audiences again. I think an experience work here in Singapore is particularly important because it is a place that I have not been to before that continues to inspire for the fine art enterprise too art of science and art and culture. There is a striking better than sharing art and nature with family, friends, and colleagues.

WITH ITS SPECIAL SETTING, GARDENS BY THE BAY DOES LIKE AN IDEAL PLACE FOR ART EXHIBITIONS. WHAT DRAWS YOU FOR ASIA ART TO EXPERIMENT CHANGES THE PLACE, AND YOU ARTIST?

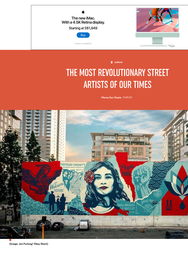
Chihuly highlights the unique dynamic between art and nature in any environment. At Gardens by the Bay specifically, my work takes on new life due to its naturalistic and varied landscapes. It is the interplay of light, colour, form, and natural elements which I hope visitors will enjoy.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE WORKS YOU HAVE SELECTED FOR DALE CHIHULY GARDEN EXHIBITION?

I am not drawing to the this exhibition, and I am designing it over a long time. For the Mission, an installation I have not shown since its debut at the Tower of Jewel Museum in Jerusalem in 2000. These works work beautifully in concert with our surroundings.

WHAT IS THE AUDIENCE'S FIRST ABOUT WORKING WITH GLASS TO BRING YOUR ARTWORK TO LIFE?

Glass is a medium I enjoy working with glass is also what drew me to the medium to begin with. Our fragility of the material and the power of the blowing process. I find the dynamic and challenging nature of this work. The process keeps me energized and motivated to explore new ideas.



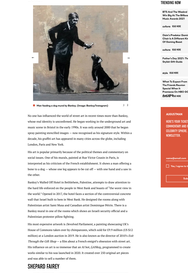
Dale Chihuly, Pu Nualoma, Seattle, Gardens by the Bay, Singapore, installed WWW-O-Chihuly Studio, Seattle, Jerusalem Botanical Gardens

STRENGTHS ON FRAGILITY. STORIES LIKE A MASTER UNDERTAKING TO BRING THESE WORKS THEY ARE ALREADY THE GLASS. WHAT THOSE CONCERNS WITH REGARDS IN TRANSPORTING THESE LARGE GLASS ARTWORKS?

Handmade conditions die and a case of accidents happen in glass. Fortunately, my team is extraordinarily skilled in handling the intricate logistics of an international exhibition, so we allowed as needed to meet our timelines for the opening.

AS AN ARTIST, WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE WITH YOUR ARTWORK?

My focus is to change environments with my work, to take, inform, and listen to create new narratives and enter the visitor's experiences of a space. I'm also attending a powerful process, and I hope that those who see the work can sense the energy and excitement we felt when making it.



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WHICH ART PIECE IN DALE CHIHULY GLASS BLOWING YOU MOST PROUD OF AND WHY?

It is among these works come together as a single exhibition that thrills me most. Having said that, I do want visitors to experience the interaction between the individual pieces and the environment where Dale and Gardens by the Bay, I created specifically for this exhibition.

Dale Chihuly: Glass in Bloom is currently on at Gardens by the Bay. Click here for ticketing and exhibition details.

Art | Singapore | Interview | Pu Nualoma | installation | Gardens by the Bay

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THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY STREET ARTISTS OF OUR TIMES

Photo/Text/Interpretation: Yvette Lee

George Jan Pachecoj/ Vhey Manzo

In 2020, British street artist Banksy's Show the The Bowery – his solo on Bowery's Deitch Projects gallery – was cancelled because of the pandemic. Banksy's most recent show in Bristol in the early 1990s. It was only second 2000 the for Angelo spray painting storyline images – now recognized as his signature style. Within a decade, his graffiti art has appeared in many cities across the globe, including London, Paris and New York.

He's at a popular primarily between of the political themes and commentary on social issues. One of his murals, located on The Victor Cousin in Paris, is dedicated to the memory of Charlie Hebdo cartoonists killed in a terrorist bombing a form a day – where one big piece is the rest of – with pure Banksy's signature style.

Banksy's Naked Gift exist in Bedminster, Pennsylvania, attempts to draw attention to the harsh life endured on the people in Mon Bank and beauty of. The most iconic in the world. Upstart in 2017, the band faces a section of the controversial criminal trial filed against Sony in New Bank. He designed the venue along with Pulitzer Prize-winning artist Jeff Koons and Pharrell Williams. Sony Music Banksy stated in one of their statements which shows an award ceremony which and Adamstown premiere pillow fighting.

His most expensive artwork is, Revolver Parliament, a painting showcasing HM's House of Commons taken over by chimpanzees, which sold for £9.9 million (US $12 million) at a London auction in 2019. He is also known as the director of 2010's Exit Through the Gift Shop – a film about a French emigrant's obsession with street art. Banksy's work has been seen in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Jerusalem and recently sold similar to his one hundred in 2020. It created over 150 original art pieces and was sold in a wide number of them.

CHEFRAED FAIREY

George Jan Pachecoj/ Vhey Manzo

A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Fairey is an American artist, graphic designer, and activist. He is best known for his Hope poster, which was the first, and most, of the three posters for Barack Obama's 2008 US presidential campaign. In 1989, while he was in design school, he created shade the Giant Man a Hope – inclusive of the renowned professional creative known as Andre the Giant which he painted around New York City. This also eventually led to Obey Giant a street artist collective and a clothing and apparel manufacturer in Los Angeles, Fairey's work is based on themes around anti-war, human rights and the environment. In 2017 he launched We the People which means featuring portrait of Donald Trump, the Gathering Day, Obey, is an influential name in the world of fashion depicting the Gathering Day, Obey, is an influential name in the world of fashion. Fairey's authoritarian fashion inspiration's Revolt culture designers in association with Fairey. Available in two colours – red and blue – only 100 pieces were made. They come in premium Freedom and a yellow Obey case with Fairey's Hope logo on the dial.

His works are featured in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Museum of Modern Art in Washington, D.C. and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

LAZY PINK

Large Pink/ Bob Lazzarini's Proprietary New York, NY, Zivage Intellectual Property

Lazy Pink's

McCray's most memorable act was in 1971, at the age of 17, when he spray-painted "Cornbread Lives" on an elephant in the Philadelphia Zoo in response to a news report claiming he was dead. Though he was caught red-handed at the time, now there is no record of the incident with the police or the zoo.

McCray later became a part of The Philadelphia Mural Arts Program and has been a public speaker and a youth advocate since.

INVADER

The Hong Kong Phooey installation by Invader. (Image: Sotheby's/Facebook)

1 2

The French artist who took his pseudonym from the video game *Space Invaders* is unlike others — he uses tiles instead of paint for his creations. Invader's works are mosaics inspired by the 8-bit video games from the 1970s and 80s, including his signature alien from *Space Invaders*. He began his career in Paris in the 1990s and has since taken his "invasions" — a term he uses for his act of mounting mosaics incognito like a hacker of space — in over 70 cities, including Hong Kong, Tokyo, Los Angeles and New York. His QR code mosaics made from black-and-white tiles can be decoded with smartphones to read "This is an invasion."

He finds unique ways to highlight his art — past instances saw him sending his creation Space1 up in a weather balloon, another called Space2 to the International Space Station, and tagging Jason deCaires Taylor's underwater reef sculptures. In 2014, he crafted a mosaic of the 1970s American cartoon character Hong Kong Phooey — a kung fu expert dog — in Hong Kong's Happy Valley neighbourhood. It was taken down by the authorities leading to protests by his fans and art enthusiasts. In 2015, a recreation of this artwork titled *Alias HK_58* was auctioned for US$258,000.

Invader masks his identity during interviews, though some reports claim that his real name is Franck Slama. He is known to have attended the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and identifies Thierry Guetta, the street artist who goes by the name of Mr Brainwash, as his cousin. Invader has also created a style he dubs Rubikcubism by creating two- and three-dimensional works out of Rubik's Cubes.

OS GEMEOS

A mural by Os Gemeos. (Image: osgemeos/Facebook)

1 2

Identical twins Gustavo and Otavio Pandolfo work under the name Os Gemeos, which is Portuguese for "the twins". The brothers from São Paulo are credited with implanting New York's street art culture in their country with a Brazilian touch. Starting as hip-hop artists, Os Gemeos took to street art in the late 1980s. They combined North and South American influences to create their unique murals of people with yellow faces, which is now universally identified as their trademark. The colour is inspired by the brothers' dreams and doesn't refer to any specific race in the diverse Brazilian population.

The themes mostly focus on the country's folklore, history and politics. From São Paulo's subway trains to alleyways in Mumbai, murals by Os Gemeos have been seen around the world. In 2013, the brothers collaborated with Louis Vuitton for an all-over print graphic scarf. An inspiration to other South American street artists, the Pandolfo brothers also have a studio practice creating sculptures and paintings. They have held numerous solo and group shows in countries like Cuba, the US, Italy, Spain, England, and Japan.

JR

The Women are Heroes street art. (Image: Widewalls)

1 2 3

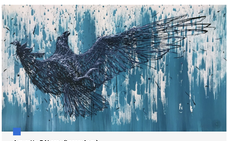
The anonymous artist who uses JR as his signature emerged on the graffiti scene as a tagger in Paris in the late 1990s. After finding a camera during one of his projects, he began documenting his works and then pasted printouts across the city. This gave birth to his unique style, which metamorphosed into huge black-and-white photographic murals that signify unity.

Some of his most important projects includes *Women are Heroes*, which pays tribute to victims of crime, rape, war, and political or religious fanaticism with huge photos of faces and eyes of women pasted on a favela in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He pasted the faces of Israelis and Palestinians on the opposite sides of the Israel-Palestine Separation Barrier for his project Face 2 Face. In 2017, he set up a unique installation *Migrants, picnic across the border* featuring one eye drawn on a table for Tecate in Mexico and the other on a tarp for Tecate, US, appearing as a dining table that people could eat off. This followed his 2012 installation *Kikito* (pictured, 2nd) of a toddler peering over the border walls from Mexico which ended up making headlines.

A winner of the 2011 TED Prize, JR was included in Time magazine's list of 100 Most Influential People of 2018. The same year, he collaborated with the magazine on its November 5 cover story and created a mural featuring videos and photos of 245 people affected by gun violence in America. JR also co-directed the 2017 documentary *Faces Places* — filmed in rural France — with renowned auteur Agnès Varda. It won the L'OEil d'or (also known as Golden Eye) award at Cannes that year.

Held at the Brooklyn Museum in New York City from October 4 to 18, 2019, *JR: Chronicles* was his first major exhibition in North America. His exhibition at Galleria Continua in Italy's San Gimignano, titled *Omelia Contadina*, will be on till May 2, 2021. It is a short film made with Italian director Alice Rohrwacher and critiques monoculture that is replacing traditional agriculture.

DALEAST



A mural by DALeast. (Image: Artsy)

DALeast is the pseudonym of a Chinese-born artist whose works can be found in almost every continent. A native of Wuhan, he was one of the founders of the city's artist collective known as Chirp. A dropout of the Institute of Fine Arts in Wuhan, DALeast was active in China's street art scene from 2004 to 2010 before he moved to South Africa.

Residing in Cape Town, he began drawing murals, some of which are hundreds of feet long, inspired by the African landscape and Chinese spiritual thought. The murals mostly depict animals, made of layered lines which appear to be three dimensional. In 2018, he moved to Berlin and now spends six months of each year travelling. The cities where his street art can be seen include Miami, New York and London.

This story first appeared on Lifestyle.Asia.India

(Main image: Jon Furlong/ Obey Giant; Featured image: The Walled Off Hotel)

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