



DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

news release



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INSTALLATION OF NEW *PERSIAN WINDOW* BY GLASS ARTIST DALE CHIHULY CREATES JEWELLED ENTRYWAY INTO EXPANDED AND RENOVATED DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

WILMINGTON, DE – Dazzling colored glass forms created by internationally celebrated glass artist Dale Chihuly have been installed in the new entrance at the newly expanded and renovated Delaware Art Museum.

Chihuly Studio has added eleven more *Persian* glass forms to the Museum's redesigned *Persian Window* to welcome visitors into the vestibule of the North Terrace main entrance. The design of the new *Persian Window* was incorporated into the building plans by the Museum's Boston architectural firm Ann Beha Architects.

"Chihuly's *Persians* are a favorite at the Delaware Art Museum. In creating this installation, which is elegantly incorporated into the North Terrace entry, they have become a focal point in the architecture and a real 'signature' for the new Delaware Art Museum," said Interim Executive Director, Melissa H. Mulrooney.

Dale Chihuly, a prolific artist, may be best known for revolutionizing the American studio glass movement to incorporate teams as part of the creative process. Chihuly was a student of interior design and architecture in the early 1960s when he became enthralled with glassblowing. He enrolled in the University of Wisconsin's hot glass program, the first of its kind in the United States, established by movement founder Harvey K. Littleton. Over the years the artist and his studio team have created a number of memorable installation exhibitions, including *Chihuly Over Venice* (1995–96), *Chihuly in the Park: A Garden of Glass at Chicago's Garfield Park Conservatory* (2001–02), and the *Chihuly Bridge of Glass* in Tacoma, Washington (2002). Dale Chihuly will open his first exhibition in a botanical garden in the United Kingdom: *Gardens of Glass at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*, later this month.

The Delaware Art Museum's three-year expansion and renovation includes recasting and renovating the existing 60,000-square-foot building with additions of more than 40,000 square feet for a total of over 100,000 square feet. The new Museum includes 17 galleries showcasing chronological and thematic installations of the Museum's internationally acclaimed collections of 19th and 20th century American art; DelArt Café & Outdoor Terrace; Delaware's first Sculpture Park; an expanded education wing; and the Helen Farr Sloan Library & Reading Room.

Members of the press are invited to attend a press conference at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14.

The Delaware Art Museum will hold its grand opening celebration from 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 26. For more information on Dale Chihuly, please visit www.chihuly.com.

ATTRACTION LISTING UPDATE – DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

The Delaware Art Museum has been transformed with two floors of glorious new galleries, Delaware's first Sculpture Park, and wonderfully enhanced exhibition and education programs that have been the hallmark of the Museum since its founding in 1912.

The new Delaware Art Museum experience includes: seventeen customized galleries showcasing, in this inaugural year, thematic installations of the Museum's renowned collections of 19th and 20th Century American art; the DelArt Café & Outdoor Terrace; the Museum Store brimming with artful gifts; beautiful public spaces relating to the nine-acre Sculpture Park, which creates an indoor-outdoor experience; auditorium, meeting room, and reception areas to serve community groups and special events; the Helen Farr Sloan Library & Reading Room; and the MBNA Foundation Education Wing, with dedicated studio space for a full schedule of art classes for children and adults.

Effective Tuesday, June 28, 2005, the new Delaware Art Museum Hours of operation and Admission prices:

<u>HOURS</u>		<u>ADMISSION PRICES</u>
Tuesday	10 a.m.–4 p.m.	Museum Members Free
Wednesday	10 a.m.–8 p.m.	Adults \$10
Thursday	10 a.m.–4 p.m.	Seniors \$8
Friday	10 a.m.–4 p.m.	College Students (with I.D.) \$5
Saturday	10 a.m.–4 p.m.	Youth \$3
Sunday	noon–4 p.m.	Children (6 and under) Free
Monday	Closed	FREE Admission on Sundays

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