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Chihuly and The Summer of Glass at FWMoA **The first Dale Chihuly exhibit in over a decade opens June 29**

June 7, 2013 (Fort Wayne, IN) – The work of studio glass pioneer and legend Dale Chihuly makes a triumphant return to Fort Wayne this summer, the likes of which Fort Wayne hasn't seen in over a decade. Not since 2002 have the unique glass forms of Chihuly been shown publicly in Fort Wayne, making **Chihuly: Secret Garden**, the blockbuster exhibition of the year. This show of contemporary art glass by internationally famous Chihuly is an unprecedented collaboration between the Fort Wayne Museum of Art and the Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus, OH, designed to welcome different kinds of art lovers throughout the community to discover this contemporary art form that has its roots in a process that is centuries old.

What makes this show unlike other Chihuly shows is the interpretation of 'garden' as a dream world incorporating unlikely installation materials to complement the organic and sometimes geometric forms of each glass piece. Guest designer Thomas Cain of the City of Fort Wayne will interpret the glass from Chihuly's famous Macchia, Blue Heron, Red Beluga, and Neodymium Reed series, bringing this installation to life with other materials not generally found in a museum gallery: sparkling crushed glass, building materials transformed into artistic forms, custom built bases and display boxes, and a subtle yet unique color scheme to allow the colors and forms of the glass works to take center stage.

The organization and presentation of this major exhibition is a landmark effort to bring to Fort Wayne art that has previously only been accessible in the major metropolitan cities of the country. By illustrating the artisanal roots of this gorgeous art form, this exhibition intends to break down the barriers between high art and craft, and underscore the relationship of art and craft to daily life, our natural environment, and popular culture.

The second major component of the Summer of Glass is a duo of contemporary studio glass exhibitions courtesy of Habatat Galleries in Royal Oak, Michigan. The first in this duo is the **41st International Studio Glass Invitational**, featuring 26 award winners regarded as the best in the world. The second is **The Next Generation of Studio Glass**, an exhibition which explores the influence of Dale Chihuly and other glass luminaries on today's emerging studio glass sculptors.

The Summer of Glass shows open to the public June 29 and continue through September 29, 2013. Special tickets at \$7 per person are required for these exhibitions in addition to general admission. Timed entry tickets will be issued based on gallery capacity at each half hour. FWMoA Members receive complimentary tickets to the Summer of Glass exhibitions as well as free general admission. To become a member, visit fwmoa.org/membership.

A members-only preview party will be held the evening of June 28, with a lecture by Ferdinand Hampson, founder and director of Habatat Galleries, the country's premier studio glass gallery. Seating is limited. The public is welcome to a lecture on July 19 at 6:30pm by the Director of Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Bruce Harkey. Lecture admission is \$5 FWMoA Members, \$10 non-members.

General admission to the museum is free for FWMoA members, \$7 adults, \$5 students and seniors 65+, and \$20 for families. General admission is free for everyone on Thursdays 5-8pm and Sundays 12-5pm. Special exhibition tickets will be required during free general admission hours. Veterans, active military personnel, and their families receive free general admission. FWMoA gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10-6pm, Thursdays 10-8pm, and Sundays 12-5pm.

Chihuly: Secret Garden is organized by the Fort Wayne Museum of Art in cooperation with Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and Chihuly Studio. Sponsored in part by Lincoln Financial Foundation, Parkview Health, and Steel Dynamics.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art: Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into a center for the visual arts community in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive permanent collection of American Art as well as prints and drawings from artists such as Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is a funded partner of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.

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