Chihuly began drawing as an interior design student at the University of Washington. In the late 1960s, after working as a glassblower at the Venini glass factory in Murano, Italy, he returned to the United States to teach at the University of Washington, where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1965. After graduating from RISD in 1966, Chihuly traveled to Venice, Italy, for a fellowship. He worked and studied at the Venini glass factory, where he observed the glassblowers and learned their techniques. In particular, the factory’s collaborative and innovative approach to creating glass art was particularly appealing to him.

In 1968, Chihuly transformed his studio at the University of Washington into a glass studio and began teaching and creating his own glass sculptures. He soon realized he wanted to further his education, and in 1969, he enrolled at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in Providence, Rhode Island, to pursue his master of fine arts degree.

On returning to the United States in 1969, Chihuly launched the glass program at the University of Washington, where he was a professor until 1973. During this time, he expanded his glass art practice, creating large-scale installations and sculptures using innovative techniques. He began to explore the idea of creating glass sculptures that could be freely suspended in space, rather than being confined to the ground.

Chihuly’s work continued to evolve, and in 1971, he opened his own studio in Seattle, Washington. From this point on, he began to create large-scale installations that would become his signature style. Over the next few decades, Chihuly’s work became increasingly influential, and he continued to create new and innovative works that pushed the boundaries of what was possible with glass art.

In addition to his studio work, Chihuly is also known for his contributions to the field of glass education. He has taught at many universities and institutions around the world, and he has been a key figure in the development of glass art as a major art form. His work has been exhibited in over 200 museums around the globe, and he has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to the field of glass art.

Chihuly’s work continues to be highly sought after, and his sculptures are prized by collectors and museums around the world. His innovative use of glass and his ability to create stunning installations have made him a leading figure in the field of contemporary art.
DALE CHIHULY
American, Born 1941

CHIHULY: INSIDE & OUT
2000, steel and blown glass, 33 x 22 x 8 ft.

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Museum purchase with funds from Suzanne and Walter Scott, 2000.1