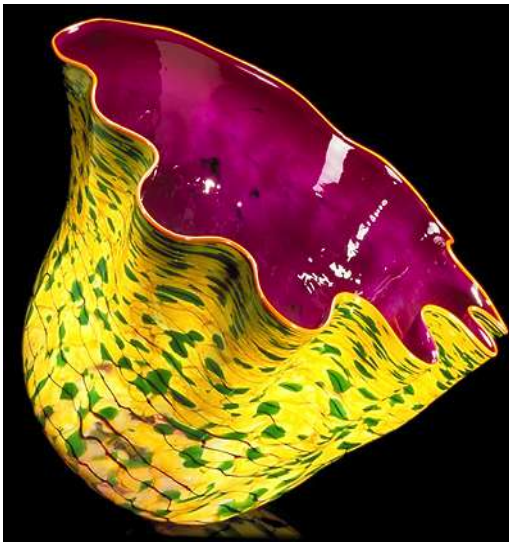


Dale Chihuly Macchia Series



Pronunciation: Dale Chi-hoo-lee

Key words: organic shapes, macchia, warm colors, cool colors

organic shapes: irregular shapes of freely-developed curves resembling those found in living organisms

macchia: (**ma**-key-yah) "spotted" in Italian

warm colors: colors that remind people of warm things, colors with red or yellow in them such as red, yellow, orange and pink

cool colors: colors that remind people of cool things, colors with blue, purple, and green in them

Grade: 1st

Activity: Chihuly Macchia "glass" sculptures

There is no print for this artist. Please refer to the power point and video for discussion of the artist and his series Macchia.

Meet the artist: (This section will be longer than in other Art Masterpiece lessons. Please include the glass blowing process in your discussion as it is a new concept to most kids. Refer to the power point presentation. You can also play the video interview at <http://www.chihuly.com/cbs-early-show.aspx> It is a short 4 min video clip that shows the Chihuly glassblowing.

A full chronology of Dale Chihuly's life is available on his website: www.chihuly.com.

- ✦ Dale Chihuly was born in Tacoma, Washington in 1941, and he graduated from high school in Tacoma.
- ✦ In 1965, Chihuly received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interior Design from the University of Washington, and in 1967, he received a Master of Science degree in sculpture from the University of Wisconsin.
- ✦ On a Fulbright Fellowship, Chihuly studied glass in Italy. He also earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design.
- ✦ In 1971, Chihuly founded the Pilchuck Glass School near Stanwood, Washington.
- ✦ In 1976, Chihuly was in a car accident that left him blinded in one eye. After dislocating his shoulder in a bodysurfing accident in 1979, Chihuly could no longer hold the glass blowing pipe. At this point in his artistic career, he built a team to help create his beautiful works of blown glass, and he began to use drawings to communicate his ideas to the team. Chihuly makes the analogy that his change in artistic roles is like a dancer who has become the choreographer.
- ✦ Chihuly is very innovative with his glass creations, always experimenting with new techniques and forms. His motto is: "Follow nature." With this motto, he departs from the traditional ways of working with glass in symmetrical forms. He recognizes the beauty in letting the molten glass go off center, creating organic shapes.
- ✦ In addition to using the usual tools of glassblowing, Chihuly emphasizes the use of heat, gravity, and centrifugal force to develop his glass forms. He has made major breakthroughs in the history of glass by increasing the scale of his work and designing large installations that fill whole galleries. He has even integrated his natural, organic glass forms with formal gardens in large-scale, outdoor installations (i.e. The Chihuly exhibit at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix, Arizona in 2008-2009).

Background information for the art of glassblowing:

The transformation of raw materials into glass takes place around 2400 degrees Fahrenheit. Most glassblowing is done between 1600-1900 degrees Fahrenheit. Glassblowers use a furnace called a "glory hole" to reheat a glass piece in between steps of working with it. Glassblowers use a number of tools to create glasswork. Molten glass is gathered onto a blowpipe in much the same way that honey is picked up on a dipper. This glass is rolled on the marver which is usually made of a thick flat sheet of steel. This forms a cool skin on the exterior of the molten glass and shapes it. Then air is blown into the pipe, creating a bubble. Special wooden blocks and paddles help shape the glass. While the glass is still heated and pliable, it can be cut with a variety of shears, and tweezers can be used to pick out details or pull on the glass. There are many ways to apply patterns and color to blown glass, including rolling molten glass in

powdered color or larger pieces of colored glass.

Discussion: (10 min)

This lesson uses electronic media rather than an art print (reproduction). See the power point for images of Chihuly's glass artwork. The classroom teacher can project the images onto the large screen in the classroom. Use the Macchia images to discuss the medium of glass as well as the elements of art and principles of design that are evident in Chihuly's glass.

- ⤴ What do you know about blown glass artwork? (Explain some of the background information about glassblowing.)
- ⤴ Chihuly's main focus with the Macchia pieces was to explore color possibilities. To create these pieces, the glass was formed with multiple layers of color. A layer of molten colored glass was rolled in chunks of white glass, and then another color of glass was rolled on the outside layer.
- ⤴ What do you notice about the colors in the Macchia pieces? (The speckles of color gave the Macchia series of glass its name. One definition for the Italian word, "Macchia," is "spotted.")
- ⤴ What groupings of contrasting colors do you see?
- ⤴ Where do you see groupings of warm colors or cool colors?
- ⤴ What do you notice about the forms of the Macchia pieces? (They are organic or natural-looking, and they are not symmetrical. This is an identifying and important characteristic of Chihuly's work).
- ⤴ What do you find interesting about using glass as a medium for artwork?

Project: Macchia "glass" sculptures

Supplies needed:

coffee filters
watercolor markers-class set
permanent markers-class set
scissors-class set
card stock for matting
Glue-class set
Liquid starch
Spray bottle
water bottles/plastic cups
paper plate

Advance Preparation:

Cut the matting to a piece that is a 4 x 4" square. Set up a spray starch station with

newspapers on the table.

Mini lesson: Review cool colors, and warm colors. Write these on the board.

Warm: red, orange, yellow Cool: blue green purple

Process: (30-40 min)

1. Pass out the coffee filters and have the kids trim the outside edge. They want to make a wavy edge to make their macchia look more organic. Caution them to cut just a small amount off the edge so they don't trim their filter too small.
2. Place the filter **on their plate**. Have the kids decide if they are going to make a macchia using cool colors, or a macchia using warm colors. Using the watercolor markers, color in their filter using only warm colors or cool colors. The coloring they are doing at this step will form the overall colors and will bleed together, so they will be mainly covering the surface with colors here as opposed to making specific designs.
3. Using the permanent markers, have the students trace the edge of their filter. Remind them to keep the filter on the plate as the marker will bleed through the filter. They may add designs or spots with the permanent markers. These permanent markers will not bleed and their designs will be visible. Encourage organic designs as opposed to things like "Sponge Bob."
4. When their filter design is complete, students should bring the filter and plate to the spray starch area. Keeping the filter on the plate, have the students mist their filter 2-3 times (make sure spray bottle nozzle is on mist rather than squirting a stream of liquid). It should just get the filter wet. Place the filter **Face Down** over a bottle or a cup turned upside down. Students should then smooth their filter over the shape of the cup or bottle. Mist the filter a few more times on the cup or bottle until it is all the way wet with starch. Gently lift the **edge** of the filter slightly away from the cup so that it will have a fluted design when dry.
5. Have students sign their matting. Place a few drops of glue on the filter (either on the cap area of the bottle or the bottom of the upside down cup) and put the matting on the glue to dry along with the filter.
6. These will need to dry overnight, but then can be easily removed from the plastic cups or bottles. Please wash the cups and bottles so they can be reused.



Clean up: Please make sure bottles and cups are washed off. You will need to pour remaining starch in the starch bottle and wash out the spray bottle. Rinse out the nozzle by putting the bottom of the sprayer in clean water and pumping the handle a few times until water is coming out the sprayer. If this is not cleaned correctly, the spray bottle will clog. Please double check to make sure the marker caps are on securely.