



FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

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CHIHULY OUTDOOR EXHIBITION COMES TO MEIJER GARDENS IN 2010

Chihuly at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park: A New Eden
April 30 – September 30, 2010

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — May 21, 2009 — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the nation's most significant sculpture and botanic experiences, will celebrate the masterwork of artist Dale Chihuly, one of the world's foremost artists, with a large-scale outdoor sculpture exhibition. "Chihuly at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park: A New Eden" will feature fourteen monumental glass sculptures in diverse locations across Meijer Gardens. It will be open to the public April 30, 2010 through September 30, 2010.

Each of the fifteen sculptures will correspond to the horticultural aspects and natural conditions of each respective location. Chosen sites span the grounds of Meijer Gardens including the English Perennial Garden, Woodland Shade Garden, Lena Meijer Children's Garden, wetland areas and the 30-acre Sculpture Park.

"I'm happy to be coming back to Frederik Meijer Gardens", said Chihuly. "The outdoor show will enable me to exhibit my artwork in some unique and beautiful locations throughout this magnificent garden and sculpture park."

This will be Chihuly's second exhibition at Meijer Gardens. "Color & Light: Chihuly at the Gardens," an indoor exhibition held in 2003, was one of the most successful exhibitions for Meijer Gardens to date.

This exhibition is timed specifically to celebrate the 15 year anniversary of Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park which welcomes over half a million visitors and now ranks as one of the most vibrant cultural attractions in the Midwest.

"We are excited to welcome Dale back to Meijer Gardens, this time to work out of doors across our gardens and grounds," said David Hooker, President and CEO of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. "Visitors of every age and experience delight in his work, and we cannot wait to share their joy."

Meijer Gardens has a long and rewarding relationship with Dale Chihuly," said Joseph Becherer, Director of Exhibitions and Curator of Sculpture at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. "We are so glad to have this chance to work on an exciting new project which will carry visitors across our campus from manicured formal gardens to tranquil wetland oasis."

For this exhibition, Chihuly and his team will be working hand-in-hand with Sculpture and Exhibitions staff as well as the Horticultural staff to celebrate the union of natural sites with stunning works of art.

In addition to the exhibition, two permanent installations are on display: *Gilded Champagne Gardens Chandelier* in Meijer Gardens' Atrium and the newly installed *Lena's Garden* suspended from the ceiling of the Café.

About Dale Chihuly

World renowned artist Dale Chihuly (b. 1941) was first introduced to glass while studying interior design at the University of Washington. He continued his studies at Rhode Island School of Design, where he later established the glass program and taught for more than a decade. Through the Fulbright Fellowship, Chihuly

studied in Venice, which exposed him to the team approach to glass blowing. Later, he returned to Washington State and founded the Pilchuck Glass School, where he continues to lead the way in fine art glass blowing. He has since been awarded eight honorary doctorates and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Chihuly's well-known series of works include *Baskets*, *Persians* and *Seaforms*. His work is included in more than two hundred museum collections worldwide. Chihuly's lifelong affinity for glasshouses has grown into a series of exhibitions with botanical settings.

About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

One of the nation's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park serves more than a half-million visitors annually. The 132-acre grounds feature Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the largest children's gardens in the country; arid and Victorian gardens; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens; and a 1750-seat outdoor amphitheater, featuring an eclectic mix of world-renowned musicians every summer. The internationally acclaimed Sculpture Park features a permanent collection including works by Rodin, Oldenburg, Moore, Bourgeois and Plensa among others. Indoor galleries host changing sculpture exhibitions with recent exhibitions by Picasso, Degas, di Suvero, Plensa and Borofsky. For additional information, please visit www.meijergardens.org.

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