

## OBJECT of the **month**

*April 2020*



Dale Chihuly, Olive Macchia with Cadmium Yellow Lip Wrap, 1992. Blown Glass with Gold Relief. Museum purchase with funds provided by the James F. Dicke family. 1999.2

### TRANSCRIPT

Hi, I'm Janet, a veteran museum guide at the Dayton art institute. Today, we'll be talking about Dale Chihuly's *Olive Macchia with Cadmium Yellow Lip Wrap* made in 1992.

Chihuly has been quoted as saying: "the aspect of the art that interests me is the audience". So, what is your first impression of this piece? What is it about this *Macchia* that you find remarkable?

Did you know this piece is about 4 feet across at the top? How much do you think it weighs?

Chihuly's goal with his "Macchia" series was to use as many of the 300 colors available to him as possible. As you examine this *Macchia*, how many colors can you name? How does the color of the interior of the piece compare with the exterior? While examining the interior, you might notice "clouds" that are very light in color. The white layer separates the "olive" interior from -and provides contrast for - the exterior spotted layer. *Macchia* is Italian for "spot."

And, what do you think of that vibrant yellow he has used for what he calls the "lip wrap"? Would you have chosen a different color?

With glass blowing, different colors are achieved by the incorporation of different metals, such as cobalt for blue. Glass is melted and shaped at volcanic temperatures. If it cools too quickly the piece may shatter altogether. Glass sculptures are cooled in ovens—ovens where the temperature is very slowly lowered to room temperature. Different colors of glass may cool at different rates. There is certainly some risk here in using so many colors in a single piece.

Dale Chihuly, certainly the most famous glass artist of his time, hasn't been able to man a blowpipe himself since 1979 due to two serious injuries. First in 1976 an automobile accident caused loss of all sight in his left eye. And second in 1979, a surfing accident where he dislocated his shoulder. So, how does this affect his role as the artist? Does art lie in the hand only?

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By Chihuly's own definition, art is something "no one has seen before." I like to think that beauty, spirit, and emotion as well as originality, enter into it.

Many sculptors work in carving stone or wood, or modeling clay then casting bronze. Why create sculpture in glass? What does glass bring to this art that marble or bronze cannot?

With his Macchia series, Chihuly was pushing the limits of size and scale as well as color.

If you would like to better understand the glass-blowing process, there are videos available at both YouTube and at DaleChihuly.com.

Thank you.

Click [here](#) for full multimedia presentation.

## RESOURCES

YouTube: "[Dale Chihuly, Gathers and Forms](#)"

YouTube: "[Making a Big Fluted Bowl with Lip Wrap](#)"

Chihuly.com: "[Macchia, See the Process](#)"

Chihuly.com: "[Persians, See the Process](#)"

Chihuly.com: "[Seaforms, See the Process](#)"

Dayton Art Institute: What is a Masterpiece? [About the Artist](#)

## IMAGE CREDITS

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[www.chihuly.com](http://www.chihuly.com)

[www.crystalbridges.com](http://www.crystalbridges.com)

## QUESTIONS

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