

Dale Chihuly

"Glass master"

1987 doc

Harvey Littleton's studio  
Spruce Pine, North Carolina

Backstory

Uni. of Washington, textiles  
1962, 1963

Five little bits of glass, incorporate into tapestry  
bubble out of stain glass ~~off~~

Harvey Littleton Uni. of Wisconsin 1966

Background in weaving → underlying structure of his work  
sense of ~~structure~~ surface embellishment

Wheel

asymmetry, gravity, centripetal force  
spontaneous medium

Glass blowing

16, 17th century developed in Herano  
Venitians

1968 Venini factory in Herano work on a grant  
⇒ team work

Difference Italy vs. US teams

Italians: men who worked in a factory at a young age  
great craftsmen, tradition keepers

Chihuly's team: not just focused on skills but on the art,  
background in art degrees

no solo work, draw insps from others

series of <sup>4th</sup> cylinders w/ drawings



1975 series NOVA for blanket cylinders

drawings tech. at Pilchuk:

new

not good for factories (duplication)

1) glass strips lying down 2) come in w/ molten glass & pick up the drawing

Team

6-7 ppl

specific job

Ben: steady initial color (inside) ~~outside~~

~~Rich: finishing~~  
(Benjamin Moore)

in charge of ~~steps~~ putting colors on the piece  
hot glass pick up white clouds : buffer between the colors  
opaque

heats

marvers & smoothes clouds on the marver } x2-3 times  
(~~hot~~ steel plate)

furnace (heat)

pick up immerses (colored bits of glass) } => exterior color

smoothed out on the marver

Rich:

(Richard Loyel)

~~boss in this~~  
gaffer (?) in this part

+ Robby <sup>Miller</sup> inflates

neck is put in the piece

Dale ~~(Dale)~~

draw

~~many pencils on canvas~~ to hand handful of pencils  
lent, spontaneous

liquides (juice, tea, coffee, bitters, soda water, wine) ~~draws~~

draw up over  
peas rice

shells under drawings

use local substances  
sense of play, experiment, freedom (w/ the material)  
~~these~~ Floor plate

drawings collab w/ Dale

Joy Kirkpatrick

painter

color combos, experimenting w/ colors ← Dale judges

→ setting up the drawing  
(glass strips + jimmies)

continued process:

neck created, drawing layed out

Rich: furnace + gather hot glass, wait  
Joy + Flore: preheat drawing  
→ put molten glass on drawing  
→ use wooden paddles to gather glass strips on the sides

Rich goes to glory hole to fuse the drawing  
marvering, smoothing out drawing, reshaping, blowing  
then put button on end of piece to thicken material ~~that was the point~~  
(smoother w/ wooden paddle)

Robby puts on punty (Rich chills neck, hits blow pipe, piece breaks off)  
Robby takes piece into glory hole (hot box 2500 degrees)  
hotter than furnace

bring to bench

Rich opens up the lip (where the neck was)

Annabelle <sup>brushes</sup> heated up color of a lip wrap

Rich adds the lip wrap around the lip (use wooden paddle to smooth)

(Timing is important!)

reheat in glory hole (x couple times)

open the piece up as wanted

final reheat: get form as wanted (flatten, widen etc.)

Joy heats up the punty w/ a torch

heat up slowly : reduction surface on ~~the surface~~

brings out previous metals in the colors

Rich: water to chill puntee, knock it off ~~the end~~, was jacks(?)

Robby puts piece in the oven