

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VMFA acquires Chihuly's *Red Reeds*

Work is first site-specific outdoor installation to be acquired by an art museum

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' board of trustees has voted to acquire the work *Red Reeds* by Dale Chihuly that was created for the Anne Cobb Gottwald reflecting pool outside the Best Café. The internationally renowned artist created more than 100 red glass reeds as part of the *Chihuly at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* exhibition, October 20, 2012- February 10, 2013. Since that time, *Red Reeds* has been on loan to VMFA.



Dale Chihuly, *Red Reeds*, 2012. Photo: Travis Fullerton © Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

This dynamic, site-specific work by Dale Chihuly was an instant success at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts," said Alex Nyerges, director."It is beautiful in every season, and is a wonderful addition to the Lora Robins Sculpture Garden. I am especially pleased that this is the first site-specific outdoor installation by Chihuly to be acquired by an art museum."

Red Reeds was purchased with private funds from the Arthur and Margaret Glasgow fund. Private funds are always used for art acquisition, but upon purchase the work becomes the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia for its ongoing care.

The reeds were blown by team Chihuly at the Nuutajarvi Glass Factory in Nuutajarvi, Finland because of the excellent clarity of glass there and to take advantage of their annealing ovens, the largest in the world. The annealing process facilitates the curing of these large-scaled elements, which are as much as 10 feet in height. Also, the red glass in Finland has a particularly brilliant quality, due to the ruby red pigment and the added chemical element neodymium.

Water lilies, lotus and grasses are positioned throughout the *Red Reeds* installation. Chihuly's work is frequently informed by nature and the artist has exhibited his work at major botanical gardens and natural settings internationally.

About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

VMFA's permanent collection encompasses more than 33,000 works of art spanning 5,000 years of world history. Its collections of Art Nouveau and Art Deco, English silver, Fabergé, and the art of South Asia are among the finest in the nation. With acclaimed holdings in American, British Sporting, Impressionist and Post-Impressionist, and Modern and Contemporary art – and additional strengths in African, Ancient, East Asian, and European – VMFA ranks as one of the top comprehensive art museums in the United States. Programs include educational activities and studio classes for all ages, plus lively after-hours events. VMFA's Statewide Partnership program includes traveling exhibitions, artist and teacher workshops, and lectures across the Commonwealth. VMFA is open 365 days a year and general admission is always free. For additional information, telephone 804-340-1400 or visit www.vmfa.museum.

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