

## Sea Creatures Abound at Flint Institute of Arts

AUGUST 7, 2009

**What:** Creative 360 “on the road” visit to the Flint Institute of Arts to see two exhibitions, “Dale Chihuly: Seaforms” and “Blown Away: International Glass of the 21st Century.”

**When:** 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22.

**How much:** \$18, or \$15 for members of Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center). Transportation provided from Creative 360, at 1517 Bayliss in Midland, to Flint and back. Lunch is on your own at the museum cafe. Reservations are due by Monday, Aug. 17. Call (989) 837-1885.

Midland -- Glass forms evoking images of sea creatures await mid-Michigan residents when Midland’s Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center) sponsors an “on the road” trip to the Flint Institute of Arts on Saturday, Aug. 22.

On display there is “Dale Chihuly: Seaforms,” featuring 39 translucent and transparent works in glass created as a part of the internationally acclaimed artist’s *Seaforms* series.

Chihuly, for those unaware, is a 67-year-old, one-eyed American glass artist whose complex and often large-scale glass pieces enchant, amaze and inspire.

Throughout his career he has created a variety of series inspired by other art forms -- among them Navajo Blanket, Northwest Coast Basket, Venetian, Ikebana and Persian.

*Seaforms* began in the 1980s and continues. Its abstract, colorful, organic and sculptural forms are inspired by the sea. And like so many of Chihuly’s works, they are often comprised of large shapes containing several smaller blown-glass vessels and bowl forms.

The Flint exhibition also features preparatory works on paper.

Log on to [www.chihuly.com](http://www.chihuly.com) for more information about the Washington state native, his interior and exterior installation/environmental art, and his use of teams of artists to create.

The trip -- from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. -- also includes a second glass show at the Flint Institute of Arts. "Blown Away: International Glass of the 21st Century" showcases 40 well-known glass artists from 14 countries who have collectively pushed the art of glassmaking to new levels. It features more than 12 techniques and processes, including cast, blown, fused and lampworked pieces.

The cost of the trip, with transportation provided by Creative 360, is \$18 with reservations required by Monday, Aug. 17. Call (989) 837-1817. Lunch is on your own in the museum's cafe.

The Flint Institute of Arts also is home to more than 7,500 works by such artists as Mary Cassatt, Alexander Calder, Auguste Renoir, John Singer Sargent and Andrew Wyeth.

The trip to Flint is one of four Creative 360 "on the road" events in the next three months. The others are:

Saturday, Aug. 29, GreenTree Cooperative Grocery Second Annual Farm Tour in the Mount Pleasant area.

Saturday, Oct. 17, a trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts to see "Photography -- The First 100 Years: A Survey From the DIA's Collection."

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 9-11, a Women's Getaway Weekend at an Au Gres cottage overlooking the Saginaw Bay, with five meals provided and lots of conversation.

### **About Creative 360**

Creative 360, formerly known as Creative Spirit Center, is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness organization founded in 1994. The Center's mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, art exhibits, events, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, mental and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. Schedules showing all classes and events at Creative 360 are available at no charge. Telephone 837-1885 to have schedules delivered to your business or location, or mailed to your home.

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Creative 360 1517 Bayliss Street Midland, MI 48640 (989) 837-1885  
fax: (989) 837-1817 [www.becreative360.org](http://www.becreative360.org)

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