

Untitled by Martin Blank

In recognition of the important part that art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Building was finished in 1914, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* will feature some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings on Mayo Clinic campuses.

Martin Blank, born August 29, 1962, received his BFA in glass from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, in 1984, under instruction from Bruce Chow, a colleague of Dale Chihuly.^{1,2} After graduating, Blank also spent time as a collaborator with Dale Chihuly's team of glass blowers in Stanwood, Washington. In 1986, he established his own independent studio known as Martin Blank Studios located in Seattle, Washington. Blank's list of public exhibitions contains international venues—the Millenium Museum, Beijing, China; the Shanghai Museum of Fine Art; and the American Embassy in Slovakia—to mention a few.³

When speaking of his art, Blank uses terms such as “mirroring,” “dialogue,” “resonance,” and “exploration.” He has a fundamental understanding of the use of and interplay between positive and negative



space. These concepts are clearly visible in his *Untitled* blown-glass piece. *Untitled* is expressive of many things in nature. It could represent an orchid in full bloom, a flame engulfing a crumpled page of paper, or a cobra with its hood spread fully open. It could be viewed as a confectioner's creation of holiday ribbon candy or wax candy lips. The ebbs and flows of the glass do mirror, dialogue, and resonate with each other, and viewing the piece at different angles provides new and interesting implications.

Blank's *Untitled* is a gift of the Edward F. Anixter Family Foundation in memory of Edith Anixter. It is located on the 18th floor of the Gonda Building in Rochester, Minnesota.

Margaret R. Wentz, BA

1. Sullivan AM. Glass Chandeliers by Dale Chihuly. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2001;76:1176.
2. Wentz MR. Waterfall Blue Persian Set by Dale Chihuly. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2005;80:578.
3. Adapted from http://www.echtgallery.com/artists/Martain_Blank/index.html Accessed February 23, 2012.