Chandelier by Dale Chihuly

Recognizing the contribution art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Clinic Building was finished in 1914, Mayo Clinic Proceedings features some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on Mayo Clinic campuses as interpreted by the author.

Dale Chihuly (1941-) a legendary glass artist who has had several of his works on the Rochester Campus of the Mayo Clinic featured in Art at Mayo Clinic,1-3 also has another unique “Chandelier” installed on the Florida campus. In the 1990s Chihuly began producing chandeliers that over the ensuing decade grew in proportion and detail.4

In like form, the Chandelier in Florida has 160 individual components5 hung together to form a cluster of fluted and bellied “flower petals.” The colors are varied and dense in some instances and fragile and opaque in others.

Chihuly uses non-traditional approaches when working with molten glass to obtain the unique and startling shapes and colors, often relying on gravity or centrifugal forces, which then lend to the organic effects achieved in his creations.6 Of his work, Chihuly says: “I want people to be overwhelmed with light and color in some way that they’ve never experienced before.”6

Chandelier is located in the lobby of Mayo Clinic Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida. It was donated to the Clinic by Dano Davis and Dorothy Davis Smith in honor of their mother, Florence Davis.5

Photos courtesy of Ms Jennifer Serrano Withers, Office of Continuous Accreditation, Licensure, and Compliance (CALC), Jacksonville campus of Mayo Clinic.

Margaret R. Wentz