

**A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY**  
500 North Indian River Drive • Fort Pierce, Florida 34950  
info@BackusMuseum.com • www.BackusMuseum.com  
772.465.0630



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The A.E. Backus Museum will present “Masters of Glass” with works by renowned artists Dale Chihuly and Marlene Rose**

Fort Pierce, FL- November 16, 2018 - The exquisite beauty of studio glass by **Dale Chihuly**, the grand master, and **Marlene Rose**, a Florida-based next-generation master will be on display in the A.E. Backus Museum's exhibition *Masters of Glass: Dale Chihuly and Marlene Rose*. The presentation will be on view **November 23 through December 30, 2018**.

Dale Chihuly (b. 1941) is an American glass sculptor known throughout the world. For more than five decades, he has worked with old and new techniques, pushing the boundaries of the medium. He derives much of his inspiration from the world around him, creating masterpieces that capture the imagination and drive beyond conventional expectations for what is possible in glass. Chihuly's works are considered to have exceptional artistic importance, and are represented in private as well as public collections throughout the United States, in Canada, England, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait among countless others.

Marlene Rose (b. 1967) is based in Clearwater, Florida. Her impressive work has been shown in galleries and included in exhibitions around the world for more than two decades. Rose uses a different, innovative technique for her hot glass creations. She pours molten glass into sand molds that she creates to facilitate the finished pieces. This technique is adapted from the ancient tradition of metal casting, going back thousands of years to create works in iron and bronze. The results of her process are a variety of mesmerizing forms and shapes that are all unique masterworks. Rose will be attending the opening reception on November 30.

The Museum is grateful to partner with Art Link International to present this exhibition to the community.

Along with the exhibition, the Museum will host a Members' **Opening Reception and Holiday Sale Preview on Friday, November 30, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**. Then on **Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2, the public is invited to the Holiday Sale - with free admission and refreshments**. The Museum Store will offer 20% discounts on most items, with a free lithograph for purchases over \$100. During the annual sale, the Museum will unveil its 2018 holiday ornament, as well as new items in the Museum Store perfect for those on the Nice List. Holiday shoppers looking for unique gifts will have an opportunity to view the exhibition while they discover everything from Backus-inspired gifts to one-of-a-kind works of art.

And special this year, don't miss the luxury American-made accessories at the exclusive Casa del Rio Collection Trunk Show. Casa del Rio is a Florida owned and operated family business that specializes in alligator leather handbags, accessories, and unique men's items. **The exclusive**

**trunk show will be part of all of the activities included in the Holiday Sale, so Members will get a special preview at the opening reception.**

***Masters of Glass: Dale Chihuly and Marlene Rose*** is on view November 23 – December 30, 2018. Regular hours are Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 PM (closed Monday-Tuesday, and closed Thanksgiving Day). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day.

### **About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**

Overlooking the Indian River in beautiful and Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery houses the nation's largest public presentation of artwork by Florida's preeminent painter, A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state's only permanent multimedia exhibition on the Florida Highwaymen.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, Backus was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the businesses and the private collections of many of Florida's most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the Florida Highwaymen. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim. It was voted "Best Museum 2018" in Indian River Magazine's annual "Best of the Treasure Coast," where it was described as "a fabulous place to visit."

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