

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

July 13, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Catherine Hinman
(407) 645-5311, ext. 109
chinman@morsemuseum.org

In 2017–2018 Season, the Morse Exhibits Tiffany Studio Designs, Louis Comfort Tiffany Paintings, and a Celebrated Bierstadt Landscape

Note to Editors: Attached are three photographs from the new exhibitions being mounted at the Morse in the upcoming season. They include a Tiffany Studios landscape window design, c. 1915; Abundance, an 1888 painting by Louis Comfort Tiffany; and The Domes of Yosemite, 1867, by Albert Bierstadt. Additional high-resolution images are available by contacting us at pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org.

WINTER PARK, Fla.—The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art begins its 2017–2018 season with two exhibitions celebrating the creative process at Tiffany Studios and the creative eye of Louis Comfort Tiffany and continues with the installation of one of Albert Bierstadt’s most famous American landscape paintings.

Tiffany Studios Designs and *Louis Comfort Tiffany—Impressions on Film, Canvas, and Paper* open in October. The design show, organized from the Museum’s collection, will include drawings, photographs, and sketches for objects ranging from windows to baptismal fonts. The exhibition of Louis Comfort Tiffany’s personal photographs, paintings, and watercolors will provide an intimate view of the innovator who built the artistic empire of Tiffany Studios, a man who found inspiration, for example, in farm scenes, children playing in the surf, and boats on the Hudson River.

Beginning in the winter for almost six months, the Museum will exhibit *The Domes of the Yosemite*, the largest known painting by Albert Bierstadt (1830–1902). It is being displayed at the Morse through a special loan of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum in Vermont following extensive conservation in Miami. The 1867 oil-on-canvas, measuring almost 10 by 15 feet, has not been on view outside the Athenaeum since its first installation in 1872.

On Friday nights from November through April, the public is invited to enjoy free admission from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., along with live music, gallery tours, and more on

selected evenings. The Museum's extended Friday hours begin November 3 and conclude April 27.

The Museum's 2017–2018 schedule also includes the 39th annual Christmas in the Park display of Tiffany windows and open house events for Christmas Eve, Winter Park's Weekend of the Arts, the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, Easter weekend, and Independence Day.

2017–2018 EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Works by Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933)—including his chapel from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and objects and architectural elements from his Long Island country estate, Laurelton Hall—are always on view. The following are descriptions of new and ongoing exhibitions in the 2017–2018 season:

Tiffany Studios Designs

Opens October 17

Under the careful watch of Louis Comfort Tiffany, talented designers and craftspeople translated the artist's all-encompassing aesthetic vision into some of the most stunning and innovative decorative objects of our time. Organized from the Morse collection, this exhibition explores some of the designs for the diverse objects born of this complex but inspired organization. The show will include objects, sketches, drawings, and photographs that reveal something of the creative process at Tiffany's firm.

Louis Comfort Tiffany—Impressions on Film, Canvas, and Paper

Opens October 17

Although best known for his achievements in the decorative arts, particularly glass, Louis Comfort Tiffany was an active painter and photographer throughout his life. This exhibit from the Museum's collection of Tiffany's photographs, paintings, and watercolors reflects not only the artist's famous eye for color and composition but his broad interests. Tiffany, who found inspiration everywhere, was unceasingly engaged with his visual environment, recording his impressions with camera, brush, and pen.

Landscape in 19th-Century America

Opens January 16

A selection of landscape paintings from the Museum's collection by artists who include Otto Heinigke (1850–1915), Lockwood de Forest (1850–1932), and George Inness (1825–1894). The show complements the exhibition *Towards Impressionism: Landscape Painting from Corot to Monet* at the Cornell Fine Arts Museum (January 20–April 8).

The Domes of the Yosemite

Opens February 13

The Domes of the Yosemite, the largest known painting by American artist Albert Bierstadt (1830–1902) will be exhibited at the Morse until early July through a special loan of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum in Vermont. The 1867 oil-on-canvas, measuring almost 10 by 15 feet, will be installed at the Morse in the winter following conservation in Miami. Charles Hosmer Morse, the industrialist and philanthropist for whom the Morse is

named, is a native of St. Johnsbury. The Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation made a significant contribution toward the Athenaeum's Domes Project, which includes not only the painting's conservation but the installation of an HVAC system in the Athenaeum, structural repair to a gallery viewing balcony, and the conservation of frames in the collection. The painting has not been on display outside the Athenaeum since its first installation in 1872.

Celebrating 75 Years—Pathways of American Art at the Morse Museum

Through September 23, 2018

Gallery talk, Fridays, 11a.m.

In this exhibition, mounted for the Museum's 75th anniversary, the Morse presents more than 60 objects that illustrate the breadth and depth of the collection assembled by Hugh and Jeannette McKean over 50 years. Equally important, the exhibition reflects the Museum's foundational values: a belief that art improves lives, a passion for education, and a respect for all artists and artistic contributions. For Hugh McKean, the Museum's visionary first director, "pathways" were the various media, techniques, styles, subjects, and points of view represented in the visual arts. The show includes portraits, landscape paintings, works on paper, plaster replicas, and pottery—all of which reflect the marvelous diversity of American art. A highlight is a replication of McKean's "Art Machine," an exhibit at the Morse, c. 1988–95, of Thomas Sully's 1871 study of a young Queen Victoria with precise instructions on how to view and appreciate the work of art.

Focus Exhibition: Tiffany Studios' Daffodil Reading Lamp

Through January 7

Louis Comfort Tiffany loved daffodils—a flower that heralds spring and is rich in symbolic meaning. Not only did he cultivate them and plant them prominently at his Long Island country estate, Laurelton Hall, he created his own versions in glass for windows, lamps, and column capitals. From the shape of its base to the decoration of its leaded-glass shade, the Morse Museum's beautiful Daffodil lamp, c. 1899 to 1905, from Tiffany Studios well rewards a careful and thorough examination. Through objects and explanatory wall panels, this exhibition presents an in-depth study of the lamp, from its inspiration and significance to its design and production.

Louis Comfort Tiffany's Laurelton Hall

Ongoing

Curator Tours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Cellphone audio tour available

Louis Comfort Tiffany's grand country estate on Long Island, built between 1902 and 1905, was arguably the designer's greatest work of art. The Museum's permanent exhibition of art and architectural elements from Laurelton Hall includes the restored Daffodil Terrace and more than 200 objects from important rooms. The installation, which opened in 2011, features two dozen leaded-glass windows, as well as lamps, art glass, and furnishings in galleries that suggest their context in Tiffany's original design for the mansion.

Revival and Reform—Eclecticism in the 19th-Century Environment

Ongoing

Gallery talks, Wednesdays, 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The Arts window, c. 1894, by J. & R. Lamb Studios is the centerpiece of this exhibition that illustrates the rich diversity of styles that made up the visual environment of the late 19th century in both Europe and America. Lamb Studios, a prominent American glasshouse of the era, exhibited the neoclassical window widely. The installation, organized from objects in the Museum's collection, features more than 20 leaded-glass windows and panels as well as selections of art glass, pottery, and furniture. Besides works by Lamb, windows on view—some avant-garde, others reviving styles of the past—include examples by Tiffany Studios (1902–32), John LaFarge (1835–1910), Frank Lloyd Wright (1867–1959), Edward Burne-Jones (1833–98), Donald MacDonald (1841–1916), and Heaton, Butler & Bayne (1855–1953).

Tiffany Chapel

Ongoing

The celebrated chapel interior that Louis Comfort Tiffany created for exhibition at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago established his reputation internationally and proved pivotal in his career. The Byzantine-Romanesque masterpiece, formerly installed on the grounds of the artist's estate on Long Island, opened as an exhibit at the Morse in 1999. Its architectural elements include four leaded-glass windows, 16 glass-mosaic encrusted columns, and a 10-foot-by-eight-foot electrified chandelier.

Lamps and Lighting—Tiffany and His Contemporaries

Ongoing

Although Louis Comfort Tiffany was an international success before his first lamp, it is his signature style of lighting that has extended the breadth and depth of his popularity across America and through time, from the 1890s to this day. The Museum's Tiffany Lamps and Lighting gallery displays more than 30 objects, including the award-winning Wisteria lamp, c. 1901; a rare Cobweb library lamp, c. 1900, with mosaic base; a 28-inch hanging Dogwood shade, after 1900; and a Bamboo design floor lamp, c. 1902. The exhibit also features lighting examples by other decorative art firms, giving insight into Tiffany's achievement at a time when widespread adoption of electricity was fueling innovations in the art of lighting.

Tiffany Art Glass from the Morse Collection

Ongoing

Tiffany Studios was arguably the most accomplished maker of art glass in the world in its day and undoubtedly one of the best of all time. In his art glass, introduced to the public in 1893, Louis Comfort Tiffany used sources that included antiquity, horticulture, rocks, and the flow of lava. Through exploitation of chemistry, mechanics, and logistics in production, he transformed his ideas into objects of astonishing variety, imagination, and beauty. In this installation from its permanent collection, the Morse presents examples of Tiffany art glass that richly illustrate the artist's mastery of this medium.

Art Nouveau from the Morse Collection

Ongoing

In this new installation, more than 20 works by international artists have been selected to illustrate both the regional diversity and common design vocabulary of the bold decorative arts style known as Art Nouveau (c. 1890–1910). The exhibition features furniture,

jewelry, ceramics, and art glass by European and American artists attempting to capture in a “new art” the ideas and passions of a dynamic era.

2017–2018 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The following are free public events scheduled for the upcoming year, organized by season. All events are at the Museum unless otherwise noted:

2017 HOLIDAYS AT THE MORSE

Holiday Friday Nights: Free admission from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Live music from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on six consecutive holiday Friday nights, November 24 through December 29. Programming will also include family tours, curator tours, and an art demonstration on selected dates.

Christmas in the Park: 6:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, December 7, Central Park, downtown Winter Park. The Morse Museum and the City of Winter Park present the 39th annual exhibition of century-old Tiffany windows and a free outdoor concert of holiday favorites by the Bach Festival Society Choir, Youth Choir, and Brass Ensemble.

Christmas Eve Open House: Free admission from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, December 24. Live music from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

2018 WEEKEND OF THE ARTS IN WINTER PARK

Weekend of the Arts Open House: The Museum will offer free admission to the galleries February 16–18 for the City of Winter Park’s Weekend of the Arts. The Museum’s open house programming will include live music on Friday night from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Open house hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

2018 RITES OF SPRING AT THE MORSE

Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival Open House: Free admission to the galleries March 16–18. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Spring Friday Nights: Free admission from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Live music from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on six consecutive spring Friday nights, March 23 through April 27. Programming will also include family tours, curator tours, and an art demonstration on selected dates.

Easter Weekend Open House: Free admission March 30–April 1. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Live music on Good Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

2018 SUMMER AT THE MORSE

Summer Family Tours and Films: June–August. These free family programs include gallery tours on select Tuesdays with a take-home art project and a film, art activity, and gallery tour on select Fridays. Reservations required.

Independence Day Open House: Free admission from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 4. The Museum provides the open house in conjunction with the City of Winter Park's 4th of July Celebration in Central Park. The tradition dates to July 4, 1995, when the Morse opened its Park Avenue galleries and the city held its first celebration of the holiday in the park.

The Morse Museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday. From November through April, the galleries are open until 8 p.m. on Fridays.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$1 for students, free for children under 12, and from November through April, free for all visitors after 4 p.m. on Fridays. For more information about the Morse, please visit www.morsemuseum.org.

###