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American Masterpieces at the Morse Are on View for Free July Fourth Last Week for Exhibit of Bierstadt's Monumental Yosemite Painting

Note to editors: High-resolution images are available by emailing pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org.

WINTER PARK, Fla.—On the Fourth of July, the public gets a free day at the Morse to experience the museum's renowned collection of works by American design master Louis Comfort Tiffany and, during its last week on exhibit, Albert Bierstadt's 1867 masterpiece, *The Domes of the Yosemite*.

The museum's Independence Day Open House, a tradition for the holiday dating from 1995, is held in conjunction with Winter Park's July 4th Celebration in Central Park. Open house hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The city event, also free, is from 9 a.m. to noon and includes family activities, live patriotic music by the Bach Festival Choir, and such summer picnic favorites as hot dogs and watermelon.

The Morse is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Tiffany, including his 1893 chapel interior and art and architectural elements from his Long Island country estate, Laurelton Hall.

Museum visitors will also have an opportunity to enjoy Bierstadt's monumental painting of the Yosemite Valley before it concludes a five-month run at the Morse on July 8. The newly conserved painting is on loan from the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum in Vermont. Bierstadt, a Hudson River School artist, was lauded for his grand, romantic landscapes, particularly those that captured the newly accessible American West.

Also on view are American paintings and American art pottery. A 1798 cream jug by American silversmith and patriot Paul Revere and a c. 1927 baseball signed by such legends of America's pastime as Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, and Lou Gehrig will be on exhibit exclusively for the Independence Day Open House.

The Morse Museum, founded in 1942 by Jeannette Genius McKean (1909–89) and led for nearly a half century by her husband, Hugh F. McKean (1908–95), is owned and operated by the Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation and receives additional support from the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation. It receives no public funds.

For more information call (407) 645-5311 or visit the museum's website at www.morsemuseum.org.

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