

Art nouveau in europe and america from the morse collection

O B J E C T G U I D E

ART NOUVEAU REFERS TO A STYLE that developed in the last decade of the nineteenth century. It waned quickly and virtually disappeared by World War I. During its peak at the turn of the twentieth century, Art Nouveau revolutionized the decorative arts and architecture in Europe and the United States.

Art Nouveau is French for “new art.” Centers of this new art arose in Paris, Vienna, Munich, London, and Milan. In short order designers from Central Europe to the American Midwest adopted and adapted the ideas of Art Nouveau. The style emerged from the tremendous economic and cultural changes of the day and grew from the rich soil of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Because of the wide variety of the work it encompasses, Art Nouveau is not easily defined with precision. But in general Art Nouveau designs shared energetic lines that were dynamic, often twisting and turning as they stretched to define curves and countercurves.

The designs tended to flat planes and asymmetrical compositions, ideas inspired by Japanese prints that were

popular at the time. In subject, they favored attractive, often sensuous images of flowers, vines, youth, and women. In seeking liberation from the past, the practitioners of the new art zealously turned away from historical styles and instead sought inspiration from nature.

In America, the designer Louis C. Tiffany and the architect Louis Sullivan have been associated with Art Nouveau, although as in the case of many great designers, no one category fully describes their work.

The Morse Museum's collection, which includes a broad range of Tiffany objects as well as numerous fine examples of European Art Nouveau, provides a splendid glimpse of the “new art” phenomenon as it arose internationally.

- 1) **Pair of baluster panels, 1898–99**
Schlesinger and Mayer department store, Chicago (now Carson, Pirie, Scott & Company)
Copper-plated cast iron
George Grant Elmslie, 1871–1952, designer
Winslow Brothers Company, manufacturer
Louis Sullivan, 1856–1924, architect
Gift of the Art Institute of Chicago (2001-058:1&2)
- 2) **Table mirror, after 1902**
No. 897, oval, Peacock design
Cast bronze, glass
Tiffany Studios, New York, 1902–32
Marks: *TIFFANY STUDIOS / 897 / TS* [conjoined monogram] (85-012)
- 3) **Pair of side chairs, c. 1900**
Walnut with rose-colored upholstery
Louis Majorelle, 1859–1926, French (FURN-064-067: A&B)
- 4) **Mirror, c. 1895–1905**
Leaded glass in wood frame
Abel Landry, 1871–1923, French (FURN-033-70)
- 5) **Vase, n.d. (no date)**
Cameo glass
Emile Gallé, 1846–1904, French (GL-002-63)
- 6) **Vase, n.d.**
Iridescent glazed clay
Clément Massier, 1845–1917, French (PO-020-70)

- 7) **Lithograph, 1896–1900**
Alphonse Marie Mucha, 1860–1939, Czech
(PR-025-69, PR-011-68, or 2001-038)
- 8) **Desk, c. 1903**
Floral marquetry
Fruitwood, maple
Emile Gallé, 1846–1904, French (FURN-073-68)
- 9) **Lamp, c. 1900**
Blown and etched glass
Emile Gallé, 1846–1904, French (60-004)
- 10) **Reading lamp, after 1902**
No. 349, Pony Wistaria design
Leaded glass, bronze
Tiffany Studios, New York, 1902–32
Marks on shade and base: *TIFFANY STUDIOS / NEW YORK* (69-008)
- 11) **Table lamp depicting dancer Loïe Fuller, c. 1900**
Gilt bronze
Raoul-François Larche, 1860–1912, French (MET-002-69)
- 12) **Jardinière with handles, c. 1900**
Glazed clay
Hector Guimard, 1867–1942, French (PO-036-75)
- 13) **Figurine, c. 1905–10**
Amphora pottery, Mold No. 775
Glazed clay
Imperial Amphora, Turn, Austria, 1903–18 (PO-006-70)

- 14) *Left to right:*
- Mantel clock, c. 1895–1904**
Hammered copper over wood, semiprecious stones
Alfred Daguét, French
For Siegfried Bing's *L'Art Nouveau*, Paris, 1895–1904 (MET-045-66)
- Hinged box, c. 1895–1904**
Hammered brass, copper, glass over wood
Alfred Daguét, French
For Siegfried Bing's *L'Art Nouveau*, Paris, 1895–1904 (MET-010-74)
- 15) *Left to right:*
- Vase, 1900**
Glazed white clay with metal mount
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Kataro Shirayamadani, 1865–1948, designer (PO-060-66)
- Vase, 1897**
Earthenware with metal mounts, tiger's eyes, moonstones, and pearls
Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1880–1967
Maria Longworth Nichols, 1849–1932, designer (PO-052-66)
- 16) *Clockwise from back left:*
- Bowl with four handles, c. 1900**
Pewter, copper, enamel
Liberty & Co., London, established 1883 (MET-026-78)

- Vase, n.d.**
Glass with silver overlay
Glasfabrik Johann Loetz-Witwe, Austria, 1836–1939 (GL-010-83)
- Box, n.d.**
Silver plate, enamel, and wood
Charles Robert Ashbee, 1863–1942, English (70-003)
- 17) *Jewelry, clockwise from top:*
- Pin, c. 1900**
Winged figure
Gold, *plique-à-jour* enamel
Eugène Feuillâtre, 1870–1916, French (MET-055-71)
- Pin, 1900**
Swan
Gold, enamel, pearl, diamond
Designer unknown, English (MET-068-70)
- Pin, c. 1900**
Lorelei figure
Gold, opal, emeralds
Designer, origin unknown (MET-001-77)
- Pin, c. 1900**
Young maiden
Gold
Henri Dropsy, 1885–1969, French (71-018)
- Pendant, n.d.**
Four seasons
Gold, enamel
Attributed to René Lalique, 1860–1945, French (MET-003-71)

Ceramics, left to right:

Vase, c. 1900

Carnation motif

Porcelain

Rozenburg, 1883–1916, Dutch
(PO-001-69)

Ewer, c. 1900

Floral motif

Porcelain

Rozenburg, 1883–1916, Dutch
(PO-002-70)

18) From the studio of Emile Gallé

Nancy, France, 1884–1935

Top, left to right:

Vase, n.d.

Cameo glass, enamel, with silver
mounts
(GL-004-73)

Bowl, n.d.

Glass with cut and applied enamel
(GL-007-77)

Vase, c. 1905

Maple leaf motif

Cameo glass
(1998-011)

Vase, c. 1904–14

Lotus motif

Cameo glass
(GL-001-67)

Bottom, left to right:

Vase, c. 1890s

Orchid motif

Cristallerie glass with applied enamel
(GL-004-68)

Vase, c. 1890s

Cristallerie glass with applied enamel
and cabochons
(GL-003-69)

Vase, n.d.

Glass with applied enamel
(GL-048-69)

Vase, n.d.

European mountain-ash motif
Cameo glass
(GL-001-71)

Vase, n.d.

Marqueterie de verre glass
(GL-028-69)



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

445 NORTH PARK AVENUE, WINTER PARK, FLORIDA 32789
407-645-5311 WWW.MORSEMUSEUM.ORG