

# PAINTINGS BY LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY AND HIS CIRCLE

## OBJECT GUIDE

IT OFTEN COMES AS A SURPRISE TO VISITORS that Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933) was a painter. In fact, he was a painter first and was recognized and appreciated in that medium.

Tiffany studied informally with George Inness (1825–94) when he was about seventeen. He exhibited successfully at New York's National Academy of Design at the age of nineteen. At twenty, he

went on to Paris, studying briefly with the academic painter Léon Charles Adrien Bailly (born 1826), but he was more influenced by the French Orientalist Léon Adolphe-Auguste Belly (1827–77). At twenty-three, Tiffany was made an Associate National Academician, and at thirty-three, he was elected to full membership in the Academy.

In Tiffany's painting, scenes of Persia (modern Iran) and North Africa alternate with American landscapes and gardens. Tiffany came early to these two themes—nature and the exotic, the Orient in particular—and they would continue to be the chief inspiration for all the media he explored.

Though he never achieved in painting the level of international admiration and respect he earned for his work in the decorative arts, he has left many wonderful pictures that beautifully express the spirit of his age and his personal vision. In this installation, the Museum presents works from the



LANDSCAPE WITH FIGURE, c. 1870, *Oil on paper*,  
*Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1848–1933 (66-062)*.



WINGED NYMPH, late-19th century: Oil on canvas board, Elihu Vedder, 1836–1923 (P-001.73).

collection that provide a view of Tiffany paintings in the context of artists who Tiffany believed in some way shared his commitment to beauty.

His circle of painting friends included Samuel Colman (1832–1920) and Lockwood de Forest (1850–1932), both of whom at various times played a role in one of the several firms Tiffany organized around the decorative arts. Similarities in subject and painting style are easily perceived in this installation. Elihu Vedder (1836–1923) also worked with Tiffany for a time and even designed a fountain sculpture for Tiffany's Laurelton Hall estate. (The sculpture is pictured in an Alan Dunn watercolor in Gallery VI)

In 1918 at Laurelton Hall, Tiffany created the Louis Comfort Tiffany

Foundation, which included a school to support and encourage young artists. Appreciating Tiffany's aesthetic, these "fellows" painted amidst the beauty of the artist's country gardens. Hugh F. McKean (1908–95), the first director of the Morse and husband of its founder, and Luigi Lucioni (1900–1988), a successful mid-twentieth-century American artist, were fellows of the foundation. Lucioni also served as an art advisor to the foundation, as did Charles Hawthorne (1872–1930) and Cecilia Beaux (1855–1942).

As a group, most of these painters were especially interested in nature and the nature of beauty. The work of these and other Tiffany-inspired painters are part of the Tiffany legacy.

The paintings in this exhibit are as follows:

1) **The Land of Arcadia, 1848**

Oil on canvas

Attributed to George Inness,  
1825–94  
(P-086-80)

2) *Top to bottom:*

**A Memory of Lake George,**

late 19th century

Oil on canvas

Samuel Colman, 1832–1920

Marks: *A memory of Lake George - /  
Painted by Saml. Colman -*  
(P-027-81)

**Untitled Farm Scene, c. 1875**

Oil on artist's cardboard

Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1848–1933

Marks: *by / L C Tiffany*  
Gift of Comfort Tiffany Gilder  
(75-003)

3) **Headland, 1878**

Oil on paperboard

Lockwood de Forest, 1850–1932

Signed, lower left: *L de F / Apr  
22/78*  
(2008-015:09)

4) **On the Hudson, near Dobb's [sic] Ferry,  
1870**

Oil on canvas

Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1848–1933  
Signed, lower left: *Louis C. Tiffany*  
(78-0013)

5) **Hudson River Landscape near  
Dobbs Ferry, c. 1870**

Oil on canvas

Samuel Colman, 1832–1920  
(P-011-81)

6) **Landscape with Evening Sky, c. 1880**

Watercolor on laid paper  
on brown board

Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1848–1933  
Signed, lower left: *Louis C. Tiffany*  
Gift of Comfort Tiffany Gilder  
(55-019)

7) **New England  
Forest, 1874**

Oil on

paperboard

Lockwood

de Forest,

1850–1932

Signed,  
lower right:

*L de F /*

*June 6/74*

(2008-  
015:16)



NEW ENGLAND FOREST,  
1874. Oil on paperboard,  
Lockwood de Forest,  
1850-1932 (2008-015:16).

8) *Top to bottom:*

**Boats along the Nile, 1878**

Oil on paperboard

Lockwood de Forest, 1850–1932

Signed, lower right: *L de F / Apr  
17/78*  
(2008-015:06)

**North African Harbor Scene, c. 1877**

Watercolor and gouache on paper

Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1848–1933

Signed, lower left: *L. C. T.*  
Gift of Susan and Edwin Linville  
(83-010)

9) **Study for the Entombment window,  
c. 1892**

Oil on panel

Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1848–1933

Paper label: [coat of arms] / *Louis  
C. Tiffany*

Gift of Comfort Tiffany Gilder  
(55-020)

10) **Winged Nymph, late 19th century**

Oil on canvas board  
Elihu Vedder, 1836–1923  
(P-001-73)

11) **Landscape with Waterfall, 1924**

Oil on canvas  
Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1848–1933  
Signed, lower right: *Louis C.  
Tiffany / -24*  
(1999-002)

12) **Ruins of Old Florida Mission,  
New Smyrna, c. 1929**

Oil on canvas  
Hugh F. McKean, 1908–95  
(PF-019-97)

13) *Top to bottom:*

**Landscape with Figure, c. 1870**

Oil on paper  
Louis Comfort Tiffany, 1848–1933  
Signed, lower right: *Louis C. Tiffany*  
(66-062)

**Vermont Pasture, 1931**

Oil on canvas  
Luigi Lucioni, 1900–1988  
Signed, lower right: *L. LUCIONI*  
31  
(P-078-93)

14) **Portrait of a Young Girl, c. 1920**

Oil on canvas  
Charles W. Hawthorne, 1872–1930  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Aldis  
(P-084-80)

15) **Portrait of Mrs. Henry La Barre Jayne,  
c. 1895**

Oil on canvas  
Cecilia Beaux, 1855–1942  
(P-072-93)

**TIFFANY AND HIS CIRCLE**

Cecilia Beaux (1855–1942):  
Tiffany Foundation Art Advisor, 1925–33

Samuel Colman (1832–1920):  
Lifelong friend and consultant to  
Tiffany's decorating businesses, c. 1878–95

Lockwood de Forest (1850–1932):  
Partner in Tiffany & de Forest Importers,  
1880–82

Charles Hawthorne (1872–1930):  
Tiffany Foundation Resident Artist, 1923;  
Foundation Art Advisor, 1923–30

George Inness (1825–94): Tiffany's  
teacher, c. 1865

Luigi Lucioni (1900–1988): Fellow at  
Tiffany Foundation, 1924; Foundation  
Art Advisor, 1932–33

Hugh F. McKean (1908–95): Fellow at  
Tiffany Foundation, 1930

Elihu Vedder (1836–1923): Designed  
windows for Tiffany Studios, c. 1878–97



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