

Gallery I

Tiffany Art Glass



Louis Comfort Tiffany's art glass pieces, introduced to the public in 1893, were an avenue for some of the artist's most innovative and daring experimentation in glass. By the turn of the century, Tiffany (1848–1933) and his artisans were experts in technique, producing nearly any texture, color, or form. This installation of Tiffany art glass brings together examples of the artist's mastery of textured effects, from smooth-cut Agate to pitted Lava glass.

1. *Left to right:*

Vase, c. 1907

Agate

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City, 1902–32

Marks: 7008D

L. C. Tiffany – Favrite

(66-011)



Vase, c. 1895

Agate

Blown glass

Tiffany Glass and

Decorating Company,

New York City, 1892–1902

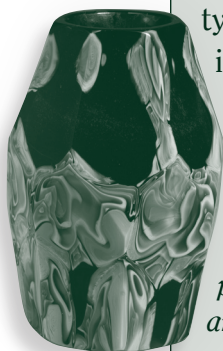
Paper label: [conjoined

TGDco] / *TIFFANY FAVRILE*

GLASS REGISTERED

TRADEMARK

(84-008)



Agate Glass

As the son of Tiffany & Co.

(1837–present) founder Charles

Lewis Tiffany (1818–1902),

Louis Comfort Tiffany had

early exposure to a variety of

jewels and gems. In his own

artistic career, Tiffany drew on

these experiences, deriving

much of his creative stimulus

from the natural world. Even

with his knowledge of the

finest jewels, Tiffany often

drew inspiration from simple

treasures like the agate stone,

a type of chalcedony quartz.

Agates—formed within

volcanic rock—are frequently

found on shorelines and

feature richly colored interiors

with one-of-a-kind striations.

Tiffany's Agate glass imitates

a polished cross-section of this

type of quartz, recreating the

intricate bands of color found

within each stone.

Visit the Laurelton Hall Other Rooms gallery at the Museum to view Tiffany's Agate glass piece from the "A-coll" or artist's collection.

Above: Vase, c. 1895–1905. Blown and carved glass (66-051).

2. *Left to right:*

Vase, c. 1914

Lava

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City, 1902–32

Marks: 9771 K /

L. C. Tiffany – Favrile

(65-029)



Vase, c. 1922

Cypriote

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City, 1902–32

Marks: *L. C. Tiffany Inc.*

Favrile / 6N

Gift of Alan Dunn

(74-021:A)

Cypriote Glass

Tiffany's Cypriote glass mimics the finely pitted, iridescent surfaces associated with ancient Greek and Roman glass objects buried for centuries in mineral-rich soil. Metallic luster was applied to give the pieces iridescence, and they were

rolled on a marver, or rolling table, to create the textured surfaces. Tiffany named his Cypriote line "in honor of the glass which had been discovered" by soldier, diplomat, and amateur archeologist Luigi Palma di Cesnola (1832–1904) in Cyprus. This famous collection, reportedly numbering 35,000 pieces, was sold to The Metropolitan Museum of Art. So successful was the Cypriote line that newspapers and magazines of the period suggested that antique glass had been "successfully revived by Tiffany."



Above: Bowl, c. first century. Glass; maker unknown; Roman; gift of Mr. and Mrs. William Doelger (GL-016-85).

Vase, c. 1924

Cypriote

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City, 1902–32

Marks: 5470 N /

L. C. Tiffany – Inc. Favrile

Museum Membership

Purchase, 1999

(1999-115)

Vase, c. 1899

Cypriote

Blown glass

Tiffany Glass and

Decorating Company,

New York City, 1892–1902

Marks: *K 1462 / L. C. T.*

(62-040)



Vase, c. 1897

Cypriote

Blown glass

Tiffany Glass and

Decorating Company,

New York City, 1892–1902

Marks: *L. C. T. / E161*

Paper label: [conjoined

TGDCo] / *TIFFANY FAVRILE*

GLASS REGISTERED

TRADEMARK

(U-006)

3. Left to right:

Vase, c. 1895

Blown and

cast glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City, 1892–1902

Marks: *C251 /*

L. C. Tiffany – Favrile

(57-003)



Vase, c. 1900

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City, 1902–32

Marks: *V539 /*

L. C. Tiffany – Favrile

Gift of Mrs. Grace M.

Anderson

(75-005)

Vase, c. 1900

Devitrified

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City, 1902–32

Marks: *V280 /*

L. C. T. Favrile

(62-007)



4. *Left to right:*

Vase, c. 1900

Blown glass

Tiffany Glass and

Decorating Company,

New York City, 1892–1902

Marks: *V 300 L. C. T.*

Favrile

(54-061)

Vase, c. 1897

Blown glass

Tiffany Glass

and Decorating

Company,

New York City, 1892–1902

Marks: *L. C. T. / E1945*

(2022-016:1)

Vase, c. 1900

Blown glass

Tiffany Glass and

Decorating Company,

New York City, 1892–1902

Marks: *U318 / L. C. T.*

(U-024)



Vase, c. 1898

Blown glass

Tiffany Glass

and Decorating

Company,

New York City, 1892–1902

Marks: *A224 Louis C.*

Tiffany

(56-035)



5. *Left to right:*

Vase, c. 1910

Iridescent

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City, 1902–32

Marks: *8919E /*

L. C. Tiffany – Favrile

Gift of Mr. and Mrs.

James L. Goodwin

(66-022)

Vase, c. 1913

Iridescent

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City,

1902–32

Marks: *7980 H /*

L. C. Tiffany – Favrile

(56-029)

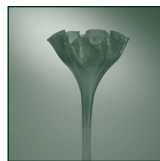


Iridescent Glass

Many of Tiffany's Favrile pieces, the trade name used to market the firm's art glass, pottery, and metalwork, feature an iridescent sheen. This optical effect became immensely popular in the nineteenth century as archeologists uncovered antique glass which exhibited the same iridescence created by chemical reactions in the soil. Directly inspired by these discoveries, glass artists like Tiffany used new techniques to reproduce such properties. In one method, certain minerals were added to the raw materials of glass to produce a metallic luster from within the finished product. In another, molten glass could be sprayed with a chemical solution and then reheated to create an iridescent surface effect. Using these new techniques, nineteenth-century glass artists effectively recreated centuries-old chemical reactions.

Vase, c. 1904

Iridescent
Blown glass
Tiffany Studios,
New York City,
1902–32
Marks: *L. C. T. / 3699B*
(54-052)



Vase, c. 1901

Iridescent
Blown glass
Tiffany Studios,
New York City, 1902–32
Marks: *W 2795 / L. C. T.*
(56-036)

Vase, c. 1900

Iridescent
Cyprus pattern
Blown glass
Tiffany Glass and
Decorating Company,
New York City, 1892–1902
Marks: *L. C. T. / U8455 /*
L. C. Tiffany – Favrile
(54-046)

6. *Left to right:*

Vase, c. 1895

Blown glass

Tiffany Glass and

Decorating Company,

New York City, 1892–1902

Marks: *o1146*

Gift of Howard J. Lockwood
(2022-011:9)

Bowl, c. 1894

Blown glass, brass filings

Tiffany Glass and

Decorating Company,

New York City, 1892–1902

Paper label: [conjoined

TGDco] / *TIFFANY FAVRILE*

GLASS REGISTERED

TRADEMARK

(2022-015:1)

7. *Left to right:*

Vase, c. 1906–1914

Cameo

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City, 1902–32

Marks: *L. C. Tiffany*

Favrile / *4732-B-*

(U-017)

Vase, c. 1915

Cameo

Blown glass

Tiffany Studios,

New York City,

1902–32

Marks: *L. C. Tiffany Inc.*

Favrile Exhibition Piece

(70-025)



Cameo and Cut Glass

In the late nineteenth century, cameo and cut glass were some of the most popular commercially available glassware. Brilliant-cut glass was characterized by extensive geometric and decorative patterns, deeply cut using rotating wheels. Cameo glassware was created using an acid resist that would leave applied designs in relief. Tiffany's innovative cameo vases present a hybrid of these techniques. Rather than using acid resist, Tiffany's artisans created high-relief designs with a cutting wheel. The result was a unique piece of glassware and an entirely new aesthetic for cameo glass.

A Brief Chronology of the Art of Glass Making

[edited from 1905 *Tiffany Studios Tiffany Favrele Glass publication*]

In 1896, Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company published a promotional catalog which included a condensed timeline of glass, beginning in the ancient period and concluding with the introduction of Tiffany's Favrele glass. These supplemented entries are in the style of Tiffany's timeline.

- 3064 BC** The oldest piece of dated glass known is an Egyptian amulet, now in the British Museum
- 2283 BC** Astronomical instruments of glass used by the Chinese
- 532 BC** Crystal glass made and sculpted by the Persians
- 14 AD** Glass factories established at Rome
- 79 AD** Cameo glass in use among Romans
- 1557** Glass works established in England
- 1747** Connecticut granted to Thos. Darling the exclusive right to make glass in colony
- 1754** Glass bottles made in Brooklyn, New York
- 1872** Experiments in glass-making instituted in New York, following valuable discoveries... [Cypriot antiquities acquired by Metropolitan Museum of Art]
- 1893** Tiffany Favrele Glass first given to the public



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