

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 – Favrile

(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—primarily 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. Favrlie
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 Glass and
Decorating Company,
New York City, 1892–1902
Marks: C251 /
L. C. Tiffany – Favrlie
(57-003)



Vase, c. 1902
Blown glass
Tiffany Studios,
New York City, 1902–32
Marks: V539 /
L. C. Tiffany – Favrlie
Gift of Mrs. Grace M.
Anderson
(75-005)



Vase, c. 1900
Devitrified
Blown glass
Tiffany Glass and
Decorating Company,
New York City, 1892–1902
Marks: V280 /
L. C. T. Favrlie
(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 Favrite 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. 1903

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 – Favrite
(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

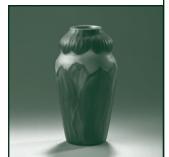
Blown glass

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 Favrlie 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 Favrlie 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 Favrlie Glass first given to the public



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