



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

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Learn about American Glass and More at Morse Museum's Independence Day Open House

*Note to editors: High-resolution images are available by e-mailing
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WINTER PARK, Fla.—At the turn of the 20th century, U.S. designers of leaded-glass windows used opalescent glass in such startlingly beautiful new ways that their innovations became known as “American glass.”

On Monday, July Fourth, the public is invited to see exhibitions at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art that showcase these windows as well as other American art for free.

In a tradition for the holiday dating from 1995, the museum provides free admission to its galleries on Independence Day in conjunction with Winter Park's “Olde Fashioned 4th of July Celebration” in Central Park. The city celebration, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., includes a bicycle parade, horse-drawn wagon rides, live patriotic music by the Bach Festival Choir and more. The museum, although normally closed on Monday, will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the holiday.

American designers on view at the Morse who excelled in the use of opalescent glass for windows include Louis Comfort Tiffany, John La Farge, and J. & R. Lamb Studios. That American designers were receiving worldwide attention for their work in the decorative arts was a point of pride for a young country whose art was typically derived from European influences. The brilliant “American glass,” its colors infused in the glass itself, was distinguished from the painted and enameled “cathedral glass” used by tradition in European windows.

Also on view at the Morse are American paintings, American art pottery, and Arts and Crafts furnishings. An 1798 cream jug by American silversmith and patriot Paul Revere will be on view at the Morse exclusively for the Independence Day Open House.

The Morse inaugurated its annual Independence Day Open House in 1995 when it opened its galleries on Park Avenue and the city inaugurated its “Olde Fashioned 4th of

July Celebration” in Central Park. Hundreds of Central Florida residents today enjoy the rich collection of American art at the Morse as part of their holiday outing in downtown Winter Park.

The museum is home to the world’s most comprehensive collection of works by American artist and designer Louis Comfort Tiffany. Highlights include art and architectural objects from his celebrated Long Island estate, Laurelton Hall, one of the most published grand American homes of the early 20th century.

The Morse Museum 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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