



THE CHARLES HOSMER  
MORSE MUSEUM  
*of American Art*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Morse Museum Focuses on Arts and Crafts in 2018–2019 Season** *Major Exhibition on American Art Pottery Opens in October*

*Note to Editors: High-resolution images are available by contacting us at [pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org](mailto:pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org).*

**WINTER PARK, Fla.**—The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art will open its 2018–2019 season in October with a major exhibition organized from its extensive holdings of American Art Pottery.

*Earth into Art—The Flowering of American Art Pottery* examines the roots of the industry in Ohio, the innovations in decoration and glazes, and the vital contributions of women. American Art Pottery was in peak demand from roughly 1876 to 1914. The work of U.S. art potteries in this period was the first truly American art to achieve widespread acclaim both domestically and abroad.

Sharing many of the values of the international Arts and Crafts movement—which was a response to industrialization and mass production—these ceramic artists sought a return to work by hand, dignity of labor, and unity of design. Their work, merging the fine and decorative arts, incorporated the avant-garde brush strokes of French Impressionism, the exoticism of Asian motifs like dragonflies, and realistic representations of plants and flowers.

In preparation for this exhibition, the Morse will reinstall two adjacent galleries with new selections of Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau objects from its collection. Winter exhibitions include smaller exhibitions on the popular iridescent ware of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and on Osceola Lodge, Charles Hosmer Morse’s Arts and Crafts house in Winter Park.

On Friday nights from November through April, the public is invited to enjoy free admission from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., along with live music, gallery tours, and more on selected evenings. The Museum’s extended Friday hours begin November 2 and conclude April 26.

The Museum's 2018–2019 schedule also includes the 40th annual Christmas in the Park display of Tiffany windows and open house events for Christmas Eve, Winter Park's Weekend of the Arts, the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, Easter weekend, and Independence Day.

### **2018–2019 EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS**

Works by Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933)—including his chapel from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and objects and architectural elements from his Long Island country estate, Laurelton Hall—are always on view. The following are descriptions of new exhibitions in the 2018–2019 season:

#### **Earth into Art: The Flowering of American Art Pottery**

*Opens October 16, 2018*

The 1876 Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia, with its displays of fine French and Asian ceramics, helped to ignite a virtual craze among American women for china painting. From this seedbed of passionate hobbyists came the leaders and artists who made American Art Pottery an international success story. It was the first truly American art to receive acclaim both in the United States and abroad. China painting, at this pivotal post-war juncture in American history, was seen as an acceptable vocation for women, and no women were more important to the flowering of the art pottery industry in America than Maria Longworth Nichols Storer (1849–1932), who founded Rookwood Pottery, and Mary Louise McLaughlin (1847–1939), an artist and author who promoted china painting as a profitable pursuit for women. Their talent, business acumen, and innovations established Cincinnati as the center of the nation's art pottery industry. This exhibition provides a window onto key developments in American Art Pottery, including the contributions of Storer, McLaughlin, and others. For the show, the Morse has drawn from its extensive collection of pottery to show the shapes, glazes, themes, techniques, and finishing methods that were second to none in the world.

#### **Iridescence in Glass and Pottery: A Celebration**

*Opens February 12, 2019*

During the second half of the nineteenth century, iridescence—the optical light phenomenon natural to seashells, butterfly wings, and peacock feathers—captured the interest of glassmakers and potters in both Europe and America. The enthusiasm for mimicking these color-changing effects followed exciting discoveries of antique glass that had become iridescent after centuries of burial within mineral-rich soils. The premier decorative art studios of the West, notably Louis Comfort Tiffany's firm in the United States and Glasfabrik Johann Loetz Witwe in Europe, developed chemical techniques to reproduce iridescent rainbow colors on par with nature. In this exhibition, the Museum celebrates iridescence through diverse examples from these and other companies of the era represented in its collection.

#### **Vignette: Osceola Lodge, Charles Hosmer Morse's Arts and Crafts Study**

*Opens February 12, 2019*

Charles Hosmer Morse (1833–1921), the industrialist and philanthropist for whom the Museum is named, began wintering in Winter Park in 1883. In 1904, he purchased an 1886 house on Lake Osceola and transformed it over the next decade into a modern residence fitted with the latest and best furnishings in the Arts and Crafts style. This house, known as Osceola Lodge, became his permanent home in 1915. Objects in this vignette are from Morse’s study at Osceola Lodge.

## **2018–2019 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

The following are free public events scheduled for the upcoming year, organized by season. All events are at the Museum unless otherwise noted:

### **2018 HOLIDAYS AT THE MORSE**

**Holiday Friday Nights:** Free admission from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Live music from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on six consecutive holiday Friday nights, November 23 through December 28. Programming will also include gallery tours and an art demonstration on selected dates.

**Christmas in the Park:** 6:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, December 6, Central Park, downtown Winter Park. The Morse Museum and the City of Winter Park present the 40th annual exhibition of century-old Tiffany windows and a free outdoor concert of holiday favorites by the Bach Festival Society Choir, Youth Choir, and Brass Ensemble.

**Holiday Weekend Open House:** Free admission Saturday, December 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 23, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with live music. (Note: This two-day open house substitutes for the open house the Morse traditionally holds on Christmas Eve, which this year falls on a Monday when the Museum is closed.)

### **2019 WEEKEND OF THE ARTS IN WINTER PARK**

**Weekend of the Arts Open House:** The Museum will offer free admission to the galleries February 15–17 for the City of Winter Park’s Weekend of the Arts. The Museum’s open house programming will include live music on Friday night from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Open house hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

### **2019 RITES OF SPRING AT THE MORSE**

**Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival Open House:** Free admission to the galleries March 15–17. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

**Spring Friday Nights:** Free admission from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Live music from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on six consecutive spring Friday nights, March 22 through April 26.

Programming will also include gallery tours, and an art demonstration on selected dates.

**Easter Weekend Open House:** Free admission April 19–21. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Live music on Good Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### **2019 SUMMER AT THE MORSE**

**Summer Family Tours and Films:** June–July. These free family programs include gallery tours on select Tuesdays with a take-home art project and a film, art activity, and gallery tour on select Fridays. Reservations required.

**Independence Day Open House:** Free admission from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, July 4. The Museum provides the open house in conjunction with the City of Winter Park’s 4th of July Celebration in Central Park. The tradition dates to July 4, 1995, when the Morse opened its Park Avenue galleries and the city held its first celebration of the holiday in the park.

The Morse Museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday. From November through April, the galleries are open until 8 p.m. on Fridays.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$1 for students, free for children under 12, and from November through April, free for all visitors after 4 p.m. on Fridays. For more information about the Morse, please visit [www.morsemuseum.org](http://www.morsemuseum.org).

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