



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

**Hugh F. McKean Exhibition to Open August 27
At Morse Museum of American Art**

***Throughout His Painting Career the Artist Was Inspired
By the Landscapes and People of Central Florida***

WINTER PARK, Fla. (August 13, 1997) – Educator, college president, museum director and collector, Hugh F. McKean was also, throughout his life, an artist. Selections of his work will be on exhibit August 27 through November 16 at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, where he was director from the museum's founding in 1942 until his death in 1995.

The exhibition traces the artist's early, realistically stylized portraiture through his later, more Impressionistic work to his maturity as a painter with a strong personal vision. By the 1940s he was painting, in an almost mystical style, scenes of a Central Florida now relegated to history.

Hugh McKean captured, in hauntingly lyrical scenes, a culture tied to its environment. "I painted, I still paint, people as I see them..." he said in an interview in 1982. "Fisherman by the lake, just a little way from my father and me, the early morning mist – the lovely, romantic way that they fit into the landscape."

For some 70 years he painted the Central Florida of his youth. As a young man he studied art at schools in this country and abroad, including the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, the Ecoles d'Art Americaines en France in Fontainebleau and the Art Students League in New York. In 1930 following his graduation from Rollins, he won a fellowship for a summer's work at the Tiffany Foundation at Laurelton Hall on Long Island and there got to know Louis Comfort Tiffany. Hugh McKean was later to become president of his alma mater. In 1940 he received his Master of Arts degree from Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

In 1942 Jeannette Genius founded the Morse Gallery of Art on the Rollins College campus naming it to honor her grandfather, Charles Hosmer Morse, and appointing the head of the college's art department, Hugh F. McKean, to be its director. Jeannette Genius married Hugh McKean in 1945, and together the couple began building what American decorative art experts today

consider the most comprehensive collection of the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany in the world. In 1980, Doubleday & Company, Inc. published *The "Lost" Treasures of Louis Comfort Tiffany* authored by Hugh McKean.

"Although we don't know precisely when Hugh McKean began painting and drawing, we know that making art was a major part of his life and at time perhaps his dominant concern," said Dr. Laurence J. Ruggiero, director of the Morse Museum. "The commitment he had to his career as a painter is reflected not only in the constancy of his production but the quality of his work. Clearly he loved painting."

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