



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

Morse Museum Announces Spanish-Language Tours

WINTER PARK, Fla. (February 25, 2005) – The Morse Museum of American Art announced today that it will begin providing Spanish-language tours by reservation.

The Morse houses the world's most comprehensive collection of works by American designer Louis Comfort Tiffany. The collection includes the designer's jewelry, pottery, paintings and art glass as well as his famed lamps and leaded-glass windows. A highlight is the restored Byzantine-Romanesque chapel interior that Tiffany designed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

The tours will be led by Assistant Preparator Andrés Pérez, a native of Colombia whose education includes degrees in museography from the National School of Conservation, Restoration, and Museography in Mexico City; in museology from the International University of the Arts in Florence, Italy; and in design from Altos de Chavón Design School, Dominican Republic. To make a reservation, Mr. Pérez may be reached directly at (407) 383-5292 or through the museum at (407) 645-5311.

The museum has had literature available in Spanish for several years. The Spanish-language tours will complement that literature and will help bring the Morse collection to life for the many Spanish speaking people now residing or visiting in the metropolitan Orlando area, said Museum Director Laurence Ruggiero.

"We are delighted to be able to add this service to our many educational programs at the museum," Dr. Ruggiero said. "The Latin community in the Orlando area has grown tremendously, and we want this important segment of our population to have comfortable access to our wonderful art collection and, most of all, to feel welcome."

The Morse was founded by Jeannette Genius McKean (1909-1989) in 1942 and named for her industrialist grandfather. She and her husband, Hugh F. McKean (1908-1995), the museum's director until his death, built the collection over a 50-year period.

In addition to works by Tiffany, the museum also features American art pottery, Arts & Crafts furnishings and late-19th and early-20th century American painting in its 19 galleries.

Special exhibitions from the permanent collection now on view include *Domestic Treasures: Tiffany Art Glass for the Public*. The exhibition of 100 glass objects, including vases, tableware and pressed tiles, represents the most comprehensive exhibition ever of the museum's collection of Tiffany art glass. The objects in the exhibition were chosen from the more than 500 examples in the Morse collection to show the remarkable quality, variety, beauty and drama of Tiffany's artistic achievement in this medium.

Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students, free for children under 12, and free to all visitors after 4 p.m. Friday.

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.

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