



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

**Morse Museum Will Celebrate 10th Anniversary
on Park Avenue with Opening of New Exhibits**

WINTER PARK, Fla. (August 26, 2005) – This October, the Morse Museum of American Art celebrates its 10th year on Park Avenue with the opening of the exhibition, *Windows and Wonders: Tiffany from the Morse Vaults*.

This large new exhibition, featuring a dozen Tiffany windows along with other of the designer's works that are rarely on view, opens to the public Tuesday, Oct. 11. The Museum's 10th anniversary celebration includes free admission during opening week of the exhibition. All visitors will be admitted to the Museum at no charge from Tuesday, Oct. 11 through Sunday, Oct. 16.

Simultaneously with *Windows and Wonders*, the Museum will open *Secrets of Tiffany Glassmaking*, a teaching exhibit on the glass techniques employed at Tiffany Studios.

A highlight of the Museum's celebration of its 10th anniversary on Park Avenue will be the first-ever Morse Family Day Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will include free gallery tours, demonstrations, and children's activities related to Tiffany glass and the Museum's collection. There is no charge for participation in the Family Day activities.

Other free programs being planned in support of the new exhibition include:

- **Live Music in the Galleries.** Harpist Bizarre, a harp, flute, guitar and bass quartet. 5-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14,
- **Fall Family Tours.** Special tour of the exhibition *Windows and Wonders: Tiffany from the Morse Vaults*. 7 p.m. on the following Fridays: Oct. 21 and 28; Nov. 4 and 11.
- **Gallery Demonstration: Stained-glass Window Fabrication.** 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11. Includes take-home activity for children.

With *Windows and Wonders: Tiffany from the Morse Vaults*, the Morse presents a selection of stunning works that have not been on view in recent years or which have never been exhibited in these galleries. These will include a dozen windows, some designed for the country's most elite homes of the day. Four leaded-glass door panels, c. 1905, for example, were designed for the New York home of August Heckscher (1848-1941), one of the nation's leading industrialists and philanthropists. They have not been on view for six years. Also to be exhibited is the seldom seen, three-panel window, c. 1885, from the

Pennsylvania home of steel magnate William Reis and his descendents. It has been extensively conserved for this presentation. The installation will also feature Tiffany enamels, lamps, art glass, and pottery, representing not only Tiffany's astonishing versatility in different mediums, but also Hugh and Jeannette McKean's comprehensive vision in building their collection for the Morse.

The exhibit *Secrets of Tiffany Glassmaking* will explain everything from the basic ingredients used in making glass to the design processes used to create the famed leaded-glass windows and lamps. It will feature some of the various tools used in glassmaking as well as window fragments, glass fragments, preliminary drawings, and a model for a window.

These two exhibits are being installed in galleries formerly devoted to windows and furnishings from Louis Comfort Tiffany's Long Island estate, Laurelton Hall. More than 100 objects from the Museum's collection of materials from Laurelton Hall are being loaned to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for the exhibition, *Louis Comfort Tiffany and Laurelton Hall*, which the Met is organizing in collaboration with the Morse to open November 2006. *Windows and Wonders* and *Secrets of Tiffany Glassmaking* will remain on view for the period of time the Laurelton Hall objects will be on loan.

The Morse's Park Avenue galleries opened on July 4, 1995. They were developed from former bank and office buildings. The redesign linked two buildings with a tower in a simple modified Mediterranean style meant to blend with the surrounding cityscape. Today, after an additional expansion to install the Tiffany Chapel from the 1893 Chicago world's fair, the Museum has more than 11,000 square feet of exhibition space – nearly three times the gallery space in its former location on Welbourne Avenue.

Jeannette Genius McKean founded the Museum – formerly known as the Morse Gallery of Art – on the Rollins College campus in 1942. The Museum was relocated to Welbourne Avenue in 1977, and its name was changed to The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art.

Since its opening 10 years ago on Park Avenue, the Museum has worked to strengthen both the aesthetic and scholarly quality of the exhibitions it mounts from the collection that Jeannette McKean and her husband, Hugh F. McKean, assembled over a 50-year period.

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. All visitors receive free admission from 4 to 8 p.m. on Fridays.

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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