



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

**Morse Museum Will Loan Tiffany Objects
to Major Exhibition at The Metropolitan**

WINTER PARK, Fla. (June 23, 2005) – The Morse Museum announced today that it will loan more than a hundred objects from its rare Tiffany collection to **Louis Comfort Tiffany and Laurelton Hall**, a major exhibition organized by The Metropolitan Museum of Art in collaboration with the Morse.

The Metropolitan Museum exhibition on Tiffany's vast country estate, built between 1902 and 1905 on Long Island, will open in November 2006 in New York. The Morse will loan 114 objects from its collection, including windows, furnishings, and architectural elements from Laurelton Hall. Some of these objects are now on exhibit in three galleries at the Morse, but others are seldom-seen works from the collection that have been in storage for future conservation and exhibition.

"The Morse is deeply honored and very proud to be a part of this exhibition, both as the major lender and a collaborator," Morse Museum Director Laurence J. Ruggiero said. "The project's important in many ways, but chiefly as a major step forward in Tiffany scholarship."

Laurelton Hall has often been cited as Tiffany's most important work. "The commitment of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, an arts institution of international reknown, to the exhibition on Tiffany's estate is an indication of the importance of the continuing study of Tiffany on a national level," Dr. Ruggiero said.

Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, the Metropolitan Museum's Anthony W. and Lulu C. Wang Curator, Department of American Decorative Arts, is the curator for the exhibition and the nation's premier authority on Louis Comfort Tiffany, Dr. Ruggiero said. A book by Ms. Frelinghuysen will accompany the exhibition. Jennifer Thalheimer, Collections Manager at the Morse, will be a contributing writer.

The Morse is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, including the largest single collection anywhere of surviving materials from his Long Island estate, Laurelton Hall. Hugh F. and Jeannette G. McKean, who built the collections of the Museum over a 50-year period, salvaged architectural elements and windows from the mansion after it was destroyed by fire in 1957.

"All of us on the Board of Trustees of the Morse Foundation are pleased especially that the Metropolitan's exhibition acknowledges the lasting value of the contribution made by the McKeans," said Harold A. Ward III, Chairman of the Board and President of the Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation. "They had great foresight in their early dedication to collecting Tiffany works, and this has proved not only a cultural benefit for Winter Park and greater Orlando, but now for a public far outside their home."

The Morse Museum's loan of Tiffany objects to the exhibition includes 20 major windows, eight lighting fixtures, eight paintings or works on paper, and 20 glass, ceramic, and enamel works that were exhibited throughout the house.

Significantly, the loan also includes the Laurelton Hall Daffodil Terrace, which will be reassembled for the first time since the surviving elements were removed from the estate by the McKeans.

In support of the exhibition, the Morse advanced its conservation schedule for both the Daffodil Terrace and the 7-foot by 8-foot marble and glass-mosaic chimney breast from the Laurelton Hall dining room. Conservation of the Daffodil Terrace, an estimated 17-foot by 28-foot outdoor space, involves the complex reassembly of eight 11-foot marble columns topped with glass daffodils, four large iridescent glass panels in a pear tree motif, and more than 600 wood tiles and sections from the coffered ceiling that bear terracotta relief decoration.

One of the many benefits of the Metropolitan's exhibition for the Morse and the community, according to Dr. Ruggiero, is that it has given the Morse the chance to address these objects on an earlier schedule for future installation in Winter Park. Another considerable benefit of the collaboration is the opportunity it presents the Morse to receive consultation on the collection from the Metropolitan's staff, who include some of the finest object conservators in the world, Dr. Ruggiero said.

Jeannette G. McKean (1909-1989) founded the Museum in 1942, naming it in honor of her industrialist grandfather. Hugh F. McKean (1908-1995), was the Museum's director for 53 years. At the invitation of a Tiffany daughter in 1957, the McKeans traveled to Laurelton Hall to rescue what they could after a fire left the house in ruins.

With the publication of his book, *The "Lost" Treasures of Louis Comfort Tiffany* (Doubleday 1980), Hugh McKean advanced knowledge and appreciation of Tiffany on a national scale. The book, too, included his personal reflections on the Laurelton Hall that he had seen in all its grandeur as a resident artist there in 1930. "After seeing it for the first time, I wrote home that Laurelton Hall did seem like a dream to me," he said.

Deinstallation of the Laurelton Hall objects from the Morse's galleries will begin this summer and be completed by mid-September. The Morse will present a new exhibition of Tiffany objects from those in storage for the period of time the Museum's Laurelton Hall materials are away. The exhibition will feature some familiar objects, such as Tiffany's famed leaded-glass lamps, some objects that have not been on view for several years, and some that will be conserved especially for the new installation.

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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