



THE CHARLES HOSMER  
MORSE MUSEUM  
*of American Art*

**Morse Museum Will Open First Exhibition of Tiffany Pottery**

WINTER PARK, Fla. — (December 15, 2003) — On February 3, the Morse Museum of American Art opens *Sculpting Nature: The Favrile Pottery of L.C. Tiffany*, the first known exhibition devoted to the now rare pottery produced by the glass master of the Gilded Age.

The exhibition — on view through January 9, 2005 — coincides with the 100-year anniversary of the introduction of Tiffany pottery. The exhibition includes 66 examples of Louis Comfort Tiffany's pottery in the Morse collection, including eight new acquisitions. Tiffany's art pottery counts today as among the rarest of objects created in the designer's prolific studios. Only an estimated 2,000 pieces were produced in a decade of production, roughly 1904 to 1914, compared to many thousands of glass objects.

Through its own collection, the largest known collection of Tiffany art pottery anywhere, the Morse examines Tiffany's art pottery in the context of his own work in other mediums and the influences reflected in the work of all artists of his day.

Pottery was one of the last mediums Tiffany would explore, although as an avid collector he had long held a keen interest in ceramics. As early as 1898, he had quietly begun experiments with decorative ceramics at the Corona factory in Long Island. In 1900, he was fascinated by the avant-garde ceramics exhibited at the Paris Exposition Universelle; the next year he arranged an exhibition of French pottery in the Tiffany Studios showroom — the only known exhibition there of work other than his own. In 1904, at the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition in St. Louis, he introduced his Favrile pottery publicly.

In 1894, Tiffany had applied for a patent for a trademark using the name Favrile, a derivation of an old English word meaning handmade, and he sold all his blown glass objects under that brand name. In 1898, he advertised Favrile glass lamps. In 1904, he took this name that had become his mark of quality and applied it to his new line of pottery, which was described in a 1906 Tiffany & Co. catalogue as "entirely different from anything heretofore shown in table lamps, vases, jars and other pieces."

The museum's exhibitions are drawn from the collection built by Jeannette McKean (1909-1989), who founded the museum in 1942, and her husband Hugh McKean (1908- 1995), director of the museum until his death. The couple assembled over a period of almost 50 years extensive holdings of Tiffany objects - what is today the world's most comprehensive collection of the designer's work. The museum's holdings also include a significant collection of American art pottery - more than 800 objects - as well as late-19<sup>th</sup> and early- 20<sup>th</sup> century American paintings and decorative art.

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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