



THE CHARLES HOSMER  
MORSE MUSEUM  
*of American Art*

**Morse Will Open First-Ever Exhibition of Tiffany  
Photography**

WINTER PARK, Fla. (January 22, 2001) – Louis C. Tiffany (1848–1933) was America's design master at the turn of the century. Most people know his lamps and his revolutionary and internationally heralded leaded windows, and many also are familiar with his mosaics and interior design. But few have any idea that he was also a photographer whose interest in the medium went beyond the help it could be on a practical level and extended to the realm of art photography.

This intriguing chapter of Tiffany's creative life is revealed in almost 30 images that will go on view at the Morse Museum of American Art Feb. 13 in the first known exhibition of Tiffany's photography: *Louis Comfort Tiffany, Photographer*. The exhibition will be on view through June 10.

Tiffany's many photographic subjects included people, boats, landscapes and architecture, images which may well have served as inspiration for other creative purposes but which also suggest an exuberant exploration of photography as an art medium.

Tiffany's interest in the developing technology of photography seems to have been full-blown by the early 1880s. From then until his retirement from Tiffany Studios in 1919, Tiffany embraced the photographic medium enthusiastically. He built darkrooms in his homes. He made photographs, he collected photographs, he hired others to make photographs for him. The museum's collection of roughly 2,000 photographs from Tiffany Studios reflects this intense absorption with the medium both for its practical uses and aesthetic effects.

The selection of photographs in the museum's new exhibition emphasizes Tiffany's artistic rather than practical purposes in using the medium.

Most of the photographs, significant both of the era and of Tiffany generally, were conservatively composed as if they were paintings. One can find images and ideas that bring Winslow Homer and other 19<sup>th</sup> century artists to mind. Other images are more innovative, presaging subjects and approaches that would gain momentum in the hands of such 20<sup>th</sup> century master photographers as Edward Steichen and Alfred Steiglitz. Finally,

a number of his photographs of distant lands and people reflect Tiffany's near obsession with the exotic.

The photographs in this exposition deserve and reward all who care about Tiffany, his creative process and his artistic achievement.

The museum houses the world's most comprehensive collection of the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany, a major collection of American art pottery and representative collections of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century American paintings, graphics and the decorative arts.

Regular admission to the museum is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students and free for children under 12. Through May, admission is free for everyone on Friday evenings during extended hours from 4-8 p.m. 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 to 4 p.m. Sunday. The Morse is closed on Monday and all major holidays.

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