



THE CHARLES HOSMER
MORSE MUSEUM
of American Art

**Ten Years and Counting: Independence Day Open House
at the Morse Marks its 10th Year on Park Avenue**

WINTER PARK, Fla. (May 25, 2005) – The Morse Museum of American Art will mark its 10th anniversary on Park Avenue with this year's annual Independence Day Open House Monday, July 4th.

The museum, which is normally closed on Monday, will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 4th in conjunction with Winter Park's Olde Fashioned July 4th Celebration in Central Park – a tradition that began when the Morse opened the doors of its new Park Avenue galleries on July 4, 1995.

The city celebration, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., includes live patriotic music, a hot dog eating contest, horse-drawn wagon rides, face painting, games and prizes.

The Morse's Park Avenue galleries were developed from former bank and office buildings. The redesign linked two buildings with a tower in a modified Mediterranean style meant to blend with the surrounding cityscape. Today, after the 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. Only this year, five of the museum's 19 galleries have been reinstalled.

Highlights include new exhibits from the museum's collections of international Art Nouveau objects, American art pottery, and, especially, the blown glass of Louis Comfort Tiffany.

The special exhibition now on view at the Morse, *Domestic Treasures: Tiffany Art Glass for the Public*, represents the most comprehensive exhibition ever of the museum's collection of Tiffany blown glass. The exhibition includes more than 100

examples of vases, tableware and mosaic tiles from the studios of Louis Comfort Tiffany.

The museum houses the world's most comprehensive collection of works by artist Louis Comfort Tiffany, whose innovations in glass design a hundred years ago were recognized as a unique American art form.

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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