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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Beginning February 12 at the Morse, Take a Fresh Look at Art Nouveau and Discover the Art of Fountain Pens**

*Note to Editors: Attached is a high-resolution image of a glass vase with silver overlay, c. 1900, from the Bohemian maker Glasfabrik Johann Loetz-Witwe. For more images, please e-mail [pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org](mailto:pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org) or call (407) 645-5311.*

**WINTER PARK, Florida**—At the turn of the 20th century, the Art Nouveau style embodied all that was deemed modern. *Lifelines—Forms and Themes of Art Nouveau*, opening February 12 at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, will explore—through nearly 100 objects from the Museum’s collection—the interrelated elements that defined the style so well known for its lively line and organic form.

On February 12, the Morse will also debut a vignette featuring more than a hundred fountain pens from the great names of the industry. These include Waterman, Sheaffer, Parker, and others. *The Art of Fountain Pens* will be organized into three groups—pens of the “golden age” from 1920 to 1940, and pens from the years before and after. Drawn from a recent gift, the exhibit—the Museum’s first-ever devoted to writing instruments as works of art—will be complemented by period advertisements, Tiffany desk sets, and other writing accessories.

In the Museum’s new long-term exhibition of Art Nouveau objects, its first significant exploration of this *fin de siècle* art phenomenon in a decade, the Morse will examine the forms and themes that contributed to the distinctive style that swept the decorative arts in Europe and to a lesser extent America from roughly 1895 to 1905. These fundamental elements of the style included exotic influences, nature, the female form, metamorphosis, and line.

*Lifelines* will include furniture, architectural ornament, lamps, jewelry, ceramics, and art glass from more than 50 makers, designers, and artists working across nine countries. These include Emile Gallé, René Lalique, Louis Comfort Tiffany, and more. The exhibition will include a number of objects from the Morse vaults that have never been exhibited.

In French, Art Nouveau literally means “new art.” This new art looked different, felt different, and reflected different values and ideas. Its practitioners drew from nature for inspiration and rejected historical styles and classical values, preferring asymmetrical forms and attenuated

curves in their designs. In the works selected for the new Morse exhibition, line frequently seems driven by its own internal life force—swirling and whipping, swerving and curving, creeping along one minute then racing forward the next.

The Morse Museum is located at 445 N. Park Avenue, Winter Park, and is open 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, with free admission from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays, November through April. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$1 for students, and free for children younger than age 12. For more information, call (407) 645-5311 or visit [www.morsemuseum.org](http://www.morsemuseum.org).

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