

Tiffany Window, Lamps, and Screen.

The Tiffany family name is associated with the heights of American luxury, and for good reason. There are two companies which have most notably born the family name; Tiffany & Co., the iconic jewelry firm founded in 1837, and Tiffany Studios, a glass factory that produced some of the world's finest luxury glass arts. Known for their Art Nouveau themed lamps, windows and luxury decorative art objects, the studio



has maintained a legacy through its advancements in glass production through the introduction of new techniques and designs still in use today.

Tiffany Studios was founded in 1885 by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Louis, the son of Charles Lewis Tiffany who founded Tiffany & Co., was born in 1848 and quickly showed an aptitude for art and design. After attending a number of military academies, he began his artistic training as a painter, studying with George Inness and Samuel Colman, before attending the National Academy of Design in New York. However, within a few years of graduation, Tiffany had changed his focus from painting to glassmaking, and by 1879 he joined a consortium of artists to form a short-

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lived design business known as L.C. Tiffany & Associated Artists. Despite its brief history, the company had an outsized impact and was selected by the 21st president, Chester Alan Arthur to redecorate the White House.

After achieving such quick success, Louis Tiffany wanted to focus increasingly on glass, leading him to dissolve the organization in order to found a glass factory in Corona, New York. Named Tiffany Studios, Tiffany and his team of designers quickly made a name for themselves, winning design awards at important fairs in Chicago, Paris, and St. Petersburg. It was at this factory that they hired designer Clara Driscoll, who authored many of the firm's most iconic designs, including Tiffany Studios Daffodil and Dragonfly lamps, and where the company developed its advancements in glass



manufacturing which are still employed to this day.

The first of his advancements came in the form of Favrite glass, which became one of the trademark features of the beautiful works created at Tiffany Studios. Favrite glass is a type of opalescent glass developed in 1894 from the firm's practice of experimenting with the addition of various metallic oxides to glass during the manufacturing process. One outstanding innovation was his iridescent glass, which changes color as the viewer moves around it. Tiffany's creation is unique amongst its competitors due to the stunning effect extending throughout the material,

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rather than existing solely on the surface. The patented technique won a grand prize at the 1900 Paris Exposition.

This unique manufacturing method was brought to bear on Tiffany Studios' iconic lamp designs. The first lamp, designed and exhibited in 1893, introduces the essential design elements which would come to define the Tiffany Studios lamp. First, a glass lampshade made of Favrile stained glass using a copper-foil technique which eschews the traditional lead technique common amongst medieval stained glass. Second, is the handmade nature of each lamp. Finally, is the Art Nouveau design, usually featuring floral or other natural motifs. While many of the designs were originally attributed to the founder, Louis Comfort Tiffany, recent research reveals that glass cutter Clara Driscoll is responsible for most of the company's most iconic designs.

Tiffany Studios most public and enduring legacy may be due to its Ecclesiastical Department, which produced stained glass windows for over 900 religious institutions between its founding in 1889 and 1910. Each window featured Tiffany Studios' trademarked Favrile glass and was custom-made for each church. Memorial windows were especially popular and often featured scenes that were only tangentially religious. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer a **Tiffany Studios Good Shepherd Stained Glass Window** (\$70/90,000) in our



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Winter Fine Sale, a scene which depicts Christ rendered in glass drapery robes in brilliant red, blue, and yellow hues, holding a lamb with sheep to each side.

Also offered at Michaan's Auctions Winter Fine Sale is a **Tiffany Studios Bronze Lamp with a Favrile Glass Damascene Shade** (\$8/12,000). The lamp features an intricately designed bronze base with a spiraling stem and the company's iconic iridescent Favrile glass employed in its shade. The shade is enhanced by the patterned nature of the glass, which produces a warm orange glow. Also on offer will be a **Tiffany Studios Wisteria Table Screen** (\$8/12,000), a beautifully fabricated piece featuring three interlocking stained-glass panels. The screen features the image of flowering wisteria, a common subject for Tiffany Studios designs.

Since the dissolution of Tiffany Studios in 1930, the fine products born from the collaboration between Louis Comfort Tiffany and Clara Driscoll have only risen in value. While the most common of the studio's smaller lamps may sell for a mere \$5,000, some of the most exceedingly rare designs have sold for over a million dollars. Also in the sale is a highly desirable **Tiffany Dragonfly Lamp on a Bronze Base** (\$40/60,000). The dragonfly design created by Clara Driscoll became the most popular model of the Tiffany Studios lamps.



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Michaan's Auctions Winter Fine Sale on Thursday, December 14th, features notable names leading the fine art, decorative, and jewelry departments. BANKSY's 2004 screen print "Barcode" headlines a sale featuring Tiffany Studios Bronze Lamp and Wisteria Table Screen, wristwatches by Omega and Hublot, and a

Chalcedony, Yellow Gold Brooch attributed to Suzanne Belperron.

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