



THE CHARLES HOSMER  
MORSE MUSEUM  
*of American Art*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Emerging from the Embers, Louis Comfort Tiffany’s Fireplace Hood is Permanently Installed at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art on October 20**

*Note to Editors:* Attached are two images of Louis Comfort Tiffany’s fireplace hood, c. 1885, acquired by the Morse Museum. Additional high-resolution images are available by contacting us at [pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org](mailto:pubaffairs@morsemuseum.org).

WINTER PARK, FL—This fall, a year after it seemed to rise from the ashes of Louis Comfort Tiffany’s razed Long Island estate, Tiffany’s unique iron fireplace hood has been permanently installed in the Laurelton Hall wing of the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art.

Tiffany (1848–1933) originally created the fireplace hood for his Seventy-Second Street residence in New York City around 1885, but later, in 1919, had the work moved to the smoking room of Laurelton Hall. The massive masterwork, measuring 66 1/2 inches tall by 55 1/2 inches wide creatively combines distinctly American, post-Civil War iron with Japanese inspirations. It was thought to have been destroyed when Tiffany’s estate burned down in 1957.

When Jeannette G. McKean (1909–89), the Morse Museum’s founder, and her husband, Hugh F. McKean (1908–95), the Museum’s first Director and a fellow at Laurelton Hall in

1930, surveyed the burned wreckage of the paradisiacal environment Tiffany had created, they decided to save everything they could. By then, however, the fireplace hood was gone. They could not have known that it had survived. The fireplace hood had been removed and stored for over half a century out of sight.

While the fireplace hood's existence was confirmed by records, including by the Morse Museum's vast collection of archival photography, it was unthinkable that it would not only one day be recovered, but joined with Tiffany's most personal works in the Morse's Laurelton Hall wing. "I'm absolutely elated to have such a meaningful example of Tiffany's ironwork at the Morse, reunited with the other works Tiffany had intended to be a part of his personal museum," said Curator and Collection Manager Jennifer Thalheimer.

The new Morse installation of the fireplace hood recalls Tiffany's original installation at his Seventy-Second Street home as well as his later reinstallation of the hood at Laurelton Hall. Though the fireplace hood itself is completely original, the *tsuba*, or Japanese sword guards, decorating the hood's surrounding panels, have been recreated to allow the visitor to better understand and appreciate the exotic and dramatic qualities of Tiffany's original conception. Tiffany had collected *tsuba* by the barrelful to be used in his interior design projects, and, just as he had them fashioned in his New York City residence, the reproduced metal discs decorate the walls in a spidery pattern in the Morse Museum's installation.

Following Tiffany's own placement of the work, the fireplace hood is set in a context of a group of art and architectural objects. Opposite the fireplace hood installation itself, an archival photograph shows the work as Tiffany installed it at Laurelton Hall.

In addition, the Laurelton Hall wing introductory gallery has been reinstalled to include plans and blueprints of Tiffany's country estate.

Tiffany's fireplace hood was purchased by the Morse from Lillian Nassau LLC with the generous assistance of Paul and Sharon Steinwachs.

The Morse Museum is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of works by American designer and artist Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933), including the chapel

interior he designed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and art and architectural objects from his celebrated Long Island home, Laurelton Hall. The Museum's holdings also include American art pottery, late 19th- and early 20th-century American paintings, graphics, and decorative art.

The Morse Museum is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. All visits are by appointment only. Appointments may be made online by visiting the Museum's "Plan Your Visit" page or by calling (407) 644-1429. Regular admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$1 for students, and free for children under 12. More information may be found on the Museum's website, [morsemuseum.org](http://morsemuseum.org).

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