

NASSAU COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

Louis Comfort Tiffany: Artist of the Gilded Age

Major exhibition featuring more than 130 paintings and multiple decorative arts showcases the artistic foundation of an American Master.

This exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from the
Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation of New York.

On view at the Historic Frick Estate from July 25, 2026.



Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933), *Pushing Off the Boat at Sea Bright, New Jersey, 1887*, Oil on canvas

Nassau County Museum of Art Permanent Collection; Gift of an Anonymous Donor, Photo: Max Yawney

June 26, 2026 - Roslyn Harbor, NY. From July 25 through November 8, 2026, the Nassau County Museum of Art presents ***Louis Comfort Tiffany: Artist of the Gilded Age***, a landmark exhibition, supported by the Robert D. L. Gardiner Foundation of New York, celebrating one of America's most influential artists and designers. Featuring more than 130 oil and watercolor paintings from the Museum's extraordinary holdings, the exhibition offers an unprecedented examination of Tiffany's achievements as a painter and demonstrates how his lifelong engagement with painting informed the innovations that would later make him internationally renowned in the decorative arts.

The exhibition marks the first time the full scope of the Museum's Louis Comfort Tiffany painting collection will be presented together. Made possible through the Museum's acquisition of the largest private collection of Tiffany paintings between 2013 and 2015—subsequently expanded through additional gifts and acquisitions—the exhibition positions painting at the center of Tiffany's artistic vision. Complementing the paintings are loans of **stained-glass windows, lamps, furniture, decorative arts**, and works by Tiffany's contemporaries, providing important context for the artistic movements that shaped his career, including Art Nouveau and the American Aesthetic Movement. Together, these works illuminate the shared artistic principles that united Tiffany's diverse creative pursuits and reveal painting as a continual source of inspiration throughout his life.

According to Executive Director Beth Horn, “NCMA will proudly showcase the magnificent Louis Comfort Tiffany works that comprise the core of our permanent collection - one of the most comprehensive collections of the artist’s paintings in existence. Our exhibition takes a unique perspective on the artist in the context of the Gilded Age, a period of marvelous opulence and expansion on Long Island’s Gold Coast and nationally. We are grateful to the Robert D.L. Gardiner Foundation of New York for its continued support of the museum’s curatorial initiatives.”

Although Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848–1933) is best known today for his revolutionary stained glass, Favrite glass, lamps, and decorative designs, he began his career as a painter and remained committed to the medium throughout his life. The son of Charles Lewis Tiffany, founder of Tiffany & Co., studied painting under prominent American artists George Inness and Samuel Colman and continued his artistic education in Paris. His paintings earned recognition at prestigious exhibitions and salons in both Europe and the United States, establishing him as a respected artist before his transition into the decorative arts. While the limited opportunities available to painters in the developing American art market led him to pursue decorative arts professionally, Tiffany never abandoned painting. He maintained a studio throughout his career, exhibited regularly, received numerous honors, and viewed painting as an essential component of his artistic practice. His fascination with color, light, atmosphere, and nature—hallmarks of his paintings—would become defining qualities of the glass and decorative works that secured his international reputation.

Chief Curator Franklin Hill Perrell explains how the exhibition illuminates Tiffany's extraordinary range as an artist and innovator: “A latter-day Renaissance man, Louis Comfort Tiffany was a complex personality combining Yankee ingenuity with an exotic, even profligate, artistic sensibility. His art expressed both the grandeur and the excesses of the Gilded Age, yet it conveyed equally its spirit of aesthetic experiment and adventure.”

The exhibition also highlights Tiffany's profound connection to Long Island and the cultural history of the region. In 1902, Tiffany began construction of Laurelton Hall, his celebrated estate in Laurel Hollow on Long Island's North Shore. Completed in 1905, the 84-room residence stylistically fused elements of Art Nouveau, the Aesthetic Movement, and Tiffany’s own artistic vision, into a unique fantasy palace. Set amidst exotic gardens and landscaped promenades of his own design, with various personal art treasures of his favorite works, Laurelton Hall became a magnet for his admirers and a venue for many entertainments. Beginning in 1918, Tiffany dedicated his estate to supporting emerging artists. Sadly, Laurelton Hall was largely destroyed by fire in 1957, with only a few relics remaining.

Louis Comfort Tiffany has an enduring presence on Long Island today. Tiffany's first ecclesiastical figure window was installed in 1878 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Islip, Long Island. Multiple other works can be found in historic buildings on the North Shore, including at a rare Gilded Age treasure, the Trinity Episcopal Church in Roslyn, New York, which features several preserved stained-glass windows. Nearest to the site of former Laurelton Hall is St John's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring Harbor, with three original Tiffany windows still on display.

Associate Curator Alex C. Maccaro notes that the exhibition highlights both Tiffany's artistic achievements and his lasting influence on generations of artists and designers: "Tiffany's impact on turn-of-the-century art is profound and still resonates with artists and aesthetes today. Our exhibition seeks to display the scope of his influence on American and European applied decorative arts and to cement his legacy as a titan of art history."

The Nassau County Museum of Art, once the Childs Frick family estate, neighbored Tiffany's residence, Laurelton Hall, and is uniquely positioned to explore Tiffany's enduring legacy on Long Island. Through its remarkable collection of Tiffany paintings and its commitment to preserving and interpreting the region's artistic heritage, the Museum offers visitors a rare opportunity to understand the full breadth of Tiffany's achievements. ***Louis Comfort Tiffany: Artist of the Gilded Age*** demonstrates that painting was not merely a precursor to his decorative arts career, but a vital and sustaining force that informed his creativity across every medium. By bringing together paintings, decorative arts, and historical context, the exhibition provides a fresh perspective on Tiffany's artistic evolution and underscores his lasting impact on American art during the transformative years of the Gilded Age.



About the Museum

Located in an authentic Gold Coast mansion on the former Frick family estate, the Nassau County Museum of Art presents multiple fine art exhibitions and related public and educational programs each year. The property features a sculpture garden with 44 major works on view, formal gardens, a century-old pinetum, and miles of wooded trails on the 145-acre preserve. Also on the estate is the Manes Art Education Center, which offers year-round classes and seasonal events for all ages and abilities and hosts an Artist-in-Residence program.

The Museum, at One Museum Drive, off Northern Boulevard in Roslyn Harbor, New York, 11576, is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 am to 4:45 pm. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65 and above), and \$5 for students and children (4 to 12). Docent-led tours of the exhibition are offered at 2 pm each day; tours of the mansion are offered each Saturday at 1 pm. Both tours are free with museum admission. Admission to the property is free of charge.

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Images & Credits

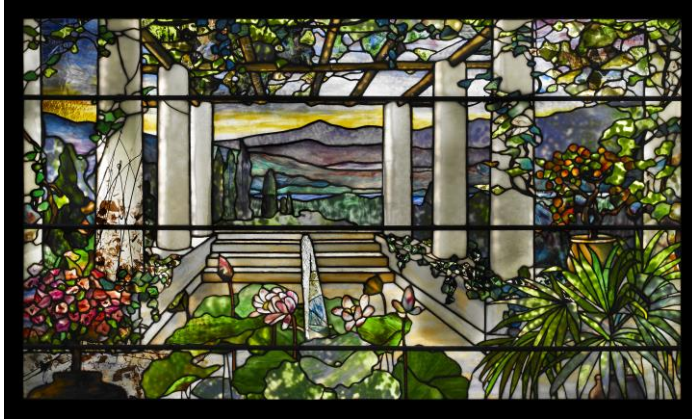


Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933), *Lakeside Villa*, n.d., Oil on canvas board, Nassau County Museum of Art Permanent Collection; Gift of an Anonymous Donor, Photo: Max Yawney



Tiffany Studios, New York (fl. 1902-1932), *Nasturtium Presentation Lamp*, ca. 1911, Leaded glass and bronze, Nassau County Museum of Art Permanent Collection; Gift of Mrs. Gladys Rosenthal in Memory of Nathan S. Jonas

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Tiffany Studios, New York (fl. 1902-1932), *View from Laurelton Hall Window*, 1900-10, Leaded and Favrite enameled glass, The Richard H. Driehaus Collection



Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933), *Mediterranean Landscape*, n.d., Oil on board, Nassau County Museum of Art Permanent Collection; Gift of an Anonymous Donor, Photo: Max Yawney

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