

*For Immediate Release*

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**20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY DECORATIVE ARTS SALES AT CHRISTIE'S HIGHLIGHT  
A SELECTION OF WORKS OF ART BY THE TIFFANY STUDIOS FROM  
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

*20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Arts including Works by the Tiffany Studios from The Museum of  
Modern Art  
June 12 & 13, 2003*

*New York – Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of a selected group of works of art from The Museum of Modern Art created by the renowned Tiffany Studios. The selection consists of 76 lots that will be offered in two sales devoted to decorative arts from the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Important 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Arts on June 12 and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Arts on June 13. The group is expected to realize between \$585,000 and \$835,000 and all proceeds of the sale will be used exclusively by the Museum for the purchase of turn of the century design objects that, like the Tiffany pieces, bridge two movements in design: Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau.*

*Today, when pieces by the Tiffany Studios often reach six-figure-prices, it is hard to believe that there was a time when Tiffany's designs were considered decidedly passé and out of fashion. This change in taste and fashion occurred even before the death of Louis Comfort Tiffany in 1933 and lasted for several decades. During this period, a small group of dedicated admirers kept the designer's memory alive and actively collected his work. Amongst them was Edgar Kaufmann, Jr. who was Director of the Department of Industrial Design at MoMA from 1946 to 1948 and who acquired ten pieces for the Museum in the late 1940s.*

*Throughout the 1950s there was an increasing interest in Tiffany's works and Arthur Drexler, then MoMA's Director of the Department of Architecture and Design, obtained an additional twenty pieces for the Museum.*

*However, it was not until 1958, when a major retrospective exhibition of Tiffany's work was held at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York, that the real reevaluation of his work began. Shortly afterwards, MoMA significantly increased its holdings of Tiffany when Joseph Heil, a prominent Tiffany collector and friend of several MoMA curators, donated a group of 155 pieces of art glass and other work by the Tiffany Studios. With the help of the Joseph H. Heil Fund, the Museum later added more Tiffany works to its collection.*

*The sale of the MoMA property offers an overview of the many styles, models and techniques that were developed and used by the Tiffany Studios. The intricacy of many of his objects and the emphasis on the play of colors and both natural and abstract motifs give these works a unique identity, an unmistakable 'Tiffany' aura. The collection for sale is particularly strong in favrile glass vases and here again, it is the mastery of technique, the wonderful use of colors and patterns and the variety of forms, that make them all true artworks.*

*The star lot is an enamel-on-copper vase of circa 1901 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). It is an exceedingly rare object, exquisitely enameled in relief to depict wisteria leaves and seedpods, the top formed as reticulated vines.*

*Among the glass pieces offered are several floriform vases. Derived from the forms of actual flowers, they stand on elongated, slender stems, the tops elegantly fanning out to form the calyx and petals in a multitude of colors and shapes (estimates range from \$6,000 to \$60,000).*

*Also offered are magical paperweight vases with colored and decorated interiors, inkwells, pen trays and enameled boxes and an autumnal landscape, painted by Louis Comfort Tiffany and signed by him (estimate: \$15,000-20,000).*

*Auction: Important 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Arts including  
Works by the Tiffany Studios from The Museum  
of Modern Art*

*June 12*

*20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Arts including  
Works by the Tiffany Studios from The Museum  
of Modern Art*

*June 13*

*Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center*

*June 7 - 11*

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*Images available on request ~ Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

*More information about Christie's sales of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative Arts can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com).  
All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also  
allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories,  
buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.*