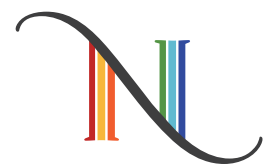


# TIFFANY or Ti-phony?

A STORY OF DESIRE

An exhibition organized by



the neustadt  
EXPERIENCE TIFFANY GLASS



# TIFFANY or Ti-phony?

## A STORY OF DESIRE

Featuring 45 lamps from The Neustadt's renowned collection, *Tiffany or Ti-phony?* is our largest traveling exhibition to date.

Starting with a seemingly simple question—is a lamp genuine Tiffany or a deliciously deceptive *Ti-phony*?—this exhibition sheds light on an unexpected tale of innovation, desire, and imitation.

Exciting new research, careful comparison, and engaging interactive elements offer a fresh and fascinating perspective on these beloved artworks. By learning to look closely, visitors will uncover clues to the lamps' true identities and discover why it's important (and fun!) to spot a fake.

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*Pond Lily* Library Lamps  
LEFT TO RIGHT Tiffany, IL18; Forgery, S.47; Forgery, S.66





# This is a story of desire.

It begins in the late 1800s, in the heart of the Gilded Age, when Louis C. Tiffany's artistic vision met a boom of industrial innovation and unprecedented wealth in America.

A painter and colorist, Tiffany was keen to explore the creative potential of glass. Unsatisfied with options produced by existing glasshouses, he founded his own furnaces in 1893, where he employed skilled chemists to develop new recipes and decorative effects for sheet and blown glass.

With access to groundbreaking materials and techniques, Tiffany's studios embarked on an aesthetic odyssey that revolutionized glass artistry. His designers could now envision intricate, exuberant lampshades using a palette of hues and textures unlike anything seen before. Skilled artisans brought these designs to life by painstakingly selecting glass, then cutting and assembling the pieces into an exquisitely crafted work of art.

People. Went. Wild.

**THE ICONIC TIFFANY LAMP WAS BORN.**

But that's not the end of the story.

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*Grape Library Lamp, IU.07*







## What's in a name?

### HALLMARKS OF TIFFANY LAMPS

Today a "Tiffany lamp" has come to mean any lampshade made by assembling pieces of glass. We see these lamps advertising Coca-Cola in restaurants, illuminating pool tables in bars and basements, and filling home lighting aisles in big box stores. But the original lamps created in Tiffany's studios were anything but ordinary. Innovative design, quality materials, skilled craftsmanship, and attention to detail were, and still are, hallmarks of a true Tiffany lamp.

In the early 1900s, the stunning artistry and novel aesthetic of Tiffany's lamps quickly made them icons of style, status, and beauty. Wealthy clients featured them in their homes and commissioned custom designs. Newspapers and fashionable magazines lauded the lamps and advertised the latest models. Tiffany's competitors attempted to emulate the new style as people across America aspired to have one of their own.

**Tiffany lamps were objects of desire.**

Until they weren't.

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LEFT *Clematis* Reading Lamp, Tiffany, C.06  
RIGHT *Peacock* Library Lamp, Tiffany, GL.07





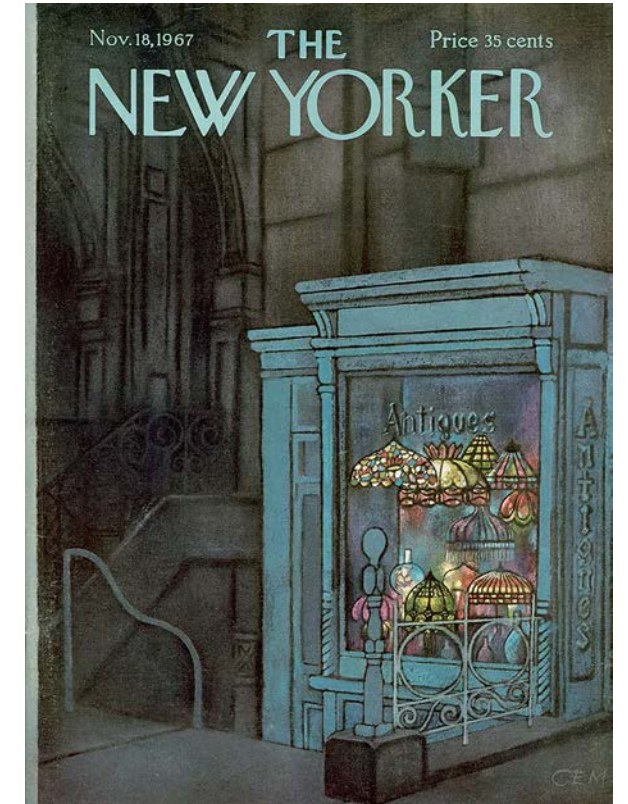


## Love, loss, and the Tiffany Revival

THEY LOVE ME, THEY LOVE ME NOT...

As Gilded Age opulence gave way to sleek, minimal modernism in the 1930s, Tiffany's once-coveted lamps fell out of favor. Now seen as gaudy and hopelessly old-fashioned, many ended up in attics or resale shops, where they attracted dust, but little interest. All but forgotten in the fickle marketplace, Tiffany's lamps ceased to be objects of desire.

Until they were, again.



To those of you who threw out Grandma's Tiffany lamp:



This time be the first to spot a good thing. Try Bengal Gin. It's a shade better.

94 PROOF GRRRR! IMPORTED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN THE BOTTLE, BY GENERAL WINE & SPIRITS CO., N.Y., DISTILLED LONDON DRY GIN, 100% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS.



ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Album cover, The Tiffany Shade, 1967; *The New Yorker*, November 18, 1967; TGI Friday's interior, San Bruno, California, 1980, photo courtesy of Bob Treat; Advertisement, Bengal Gin, 1968. LEFT Advertisement, Contempo Book Club, 1975.



## THEY LOVE ME!

Between the 1950s and 1980s, exhibitions and publications devoted to Tiffany's artistic genius revived public interest in his work. Once again his lamps were seen as desirable works of art. Scholars wanted to talk about them. Museum-goers wanted to see them. Collectors wanted to buy them. Artisans and hobbyists wanted to craft them. Tiffany lamps were everywhere, from advertisements to album covers.

As their popularity increased, so did their market value.

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*Poppy Library Lamps*  
LEFT Tiffany, C.13; RIGHT Forgery, S.29



## Enter, THE FORGERY.





Buyers desired Tiffany lamps.

Forgers desired profit and saw an opportunity.

Tiffany's studios produced hundreds of designs and thousands of lamps—no two were identical—so the stage was perfectly set for creating counterfeits. Not every fake Tiffany-style lamp was made with the intent to deceive; some were innocent reproductions that found their way into a murky marketplace. Others, however, were meticulously crafted by contemporary artisans for the sole purpose of profit by deception. We call these forgeries *Ti-phonys*. Some of them are very, very good.



*Wisteria Library Lamps*  
LEFT TO RIGHT Tiffany, IU.08; Forgery, S.61; Tiffany, IU.07; Forgery, S.62;  
Forgery, S.59; Forgery, S.57



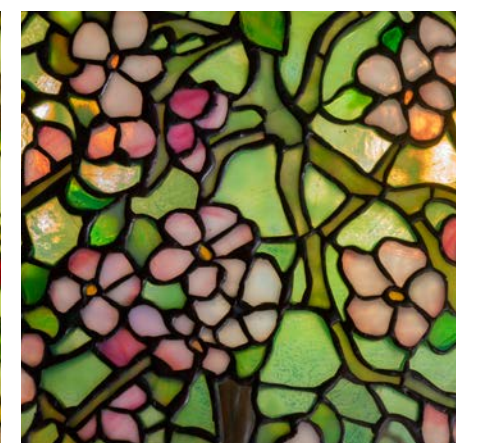
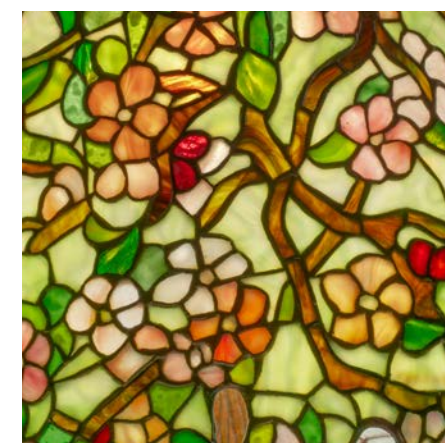
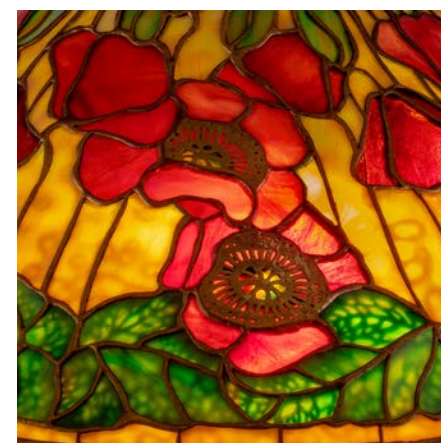
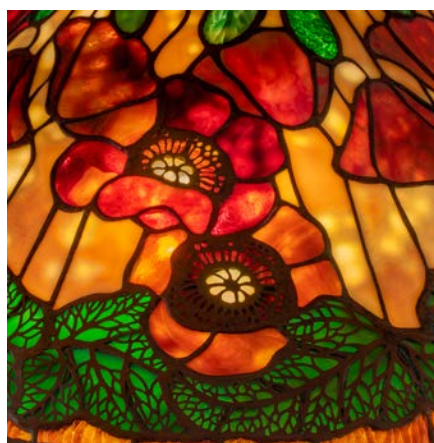
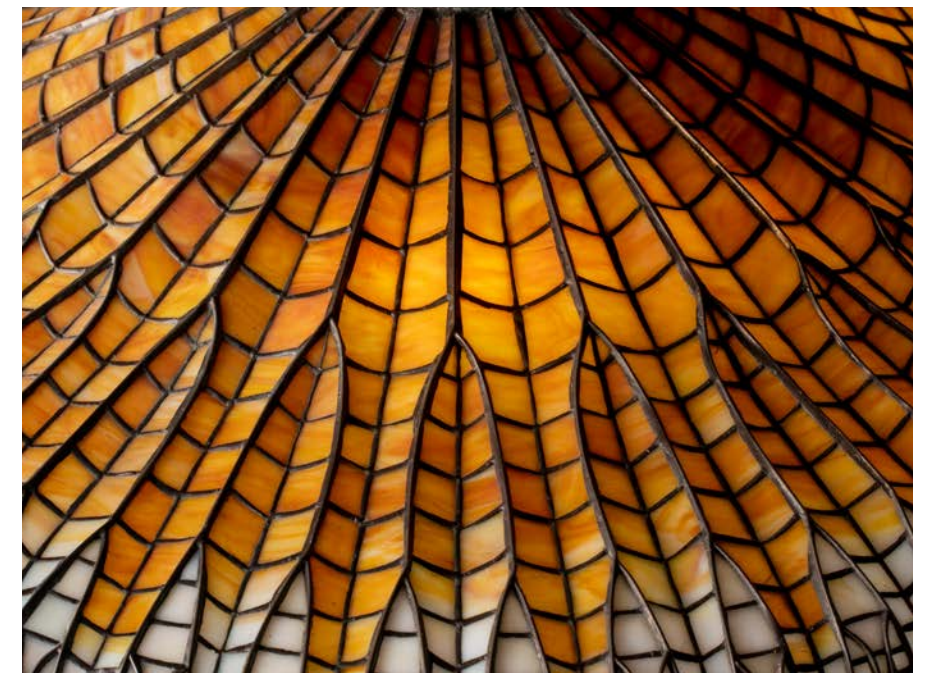
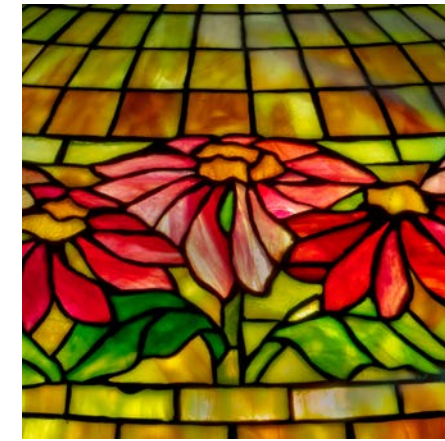
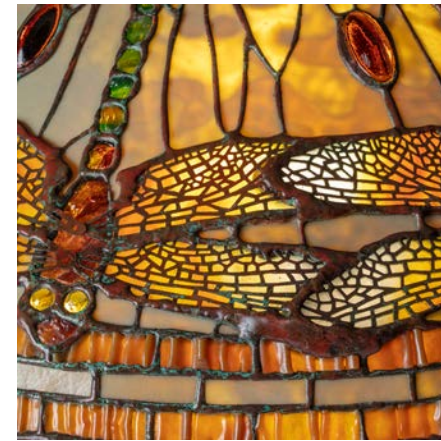
# Buyer beware

## DECEPTION AND DISCOVERY

The rise of expert Tiffany forgeries prompted a need for genuine Tiffany experts—people who spend years studying, researching, and comparing Tiffany objects to understand their most intricate details. The smallest subtleties of glass type, color, design, and construction can signal the difference between a genuine Tiffany lamp and an imitator, and hence a monumental difference in price.

**Determining the authenticity of a Tiffany lamp is a tricky business. The best way to spot a Ti-phony is to practice the art of looking.**

While it takes a lifetime of study to become a true Tiffany expert, learning to look is a fun and fascinating activity that anyone can try. Guided looking at five lamp pairings gives visitors the chance to practice intimate observation and careful comparison.



TOP LEFT *Dragonfly* Library Lamp details LEFT Tiffany, C.11; RIGHT Forgery, S.16

TOP RIGHT *Poinsettia* Border Library Lamp details LEFT Tiffany, T.03; RIGHT Forgery, S.12

MIDDLE *Lotus Pagoda* Library Lamp details LEFT Forgery, S.11; RIGHT Tiffany, G.26

BOTTOM LEFT *Poppy* Library Lamp details LEFT Forgery, S.29; RIGHT Tiffany, C.13

BOTTOM RIGHT *Apple Blossom* Library Lamp details LEFT Forgery, S.48; RIGHT Tiffany, IU.04



## Eye of the beholder

### WHICH LAMPS DO *YOU* DESIRE?

Looking isn't about likes and dislikes. You may discover that you simply like a forgery better than its genuine counterpart and that's ok. Taste is famously subjective! But you don't want to pay top dollar for a copy or fill your collection with fakes if you're aiming for the real deal.



The exhibition culminates with an alluring assortment of genuine and fake lamps, and an opportunity for visitors to imagine building their own Tiffany collection. Can they use their new skills to spot the Ti-phonys hiding among the genuine Tiffanys?

Visitors are encouraged to have fun, take their time, explore with their eyes, and confer with their friends. Which lamps do they most desire? How many genuine Tiffany lamps made it into their collection? How many Ti-phonys?

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*Peony Library Lamps*  
LEFT TO RIGHT Forgery, S.29; Forgery, S.27; Tiffany, GL.11



# Enduring desire

## TIFFANY LAMPS TODAY

Our love affair with Tiffany lamps has endured in the 21st century. Once again, “Tiffany” lamps are everywhere, from tattoos to couture. Real Tiffany lamps continue to set record prices at auction, while the nostalgic appeal of Tiffany-style lamps permeates popular culture, from TikTok trends to home decor magazines.

The exhibition concludes with a brief look at how the public’s taste for Tiffany remains enthusiastic—regardless of a lamp’s authenticity. Visitors are invited to reflect on how they have experienced the influence of Tiffany lamps in their lives and share their memories in an illustrated guest book.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

@stvalentstudio, *TikTok*, December 6, 2023

Sharon Greenthal, *Better Homes & Gardens*, March 28, 2024

Verity Babbs, *Artnet News*, March 26, 2024

@cemeteryvampire, *TikTok*, January 13, 2025

@oscardelarenta, *Instagram*, November 5, 2024

Rachel Wolfe, *The Wall Street Journal*, July 16, 2020

@grace.susilo, *TikTok*, December 15, 2023

Nina Derwin, *Martha Stewart*, June 26, 2024

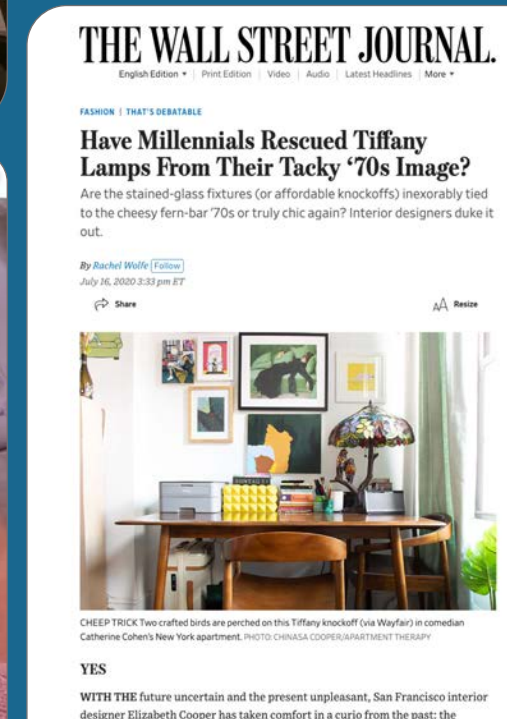
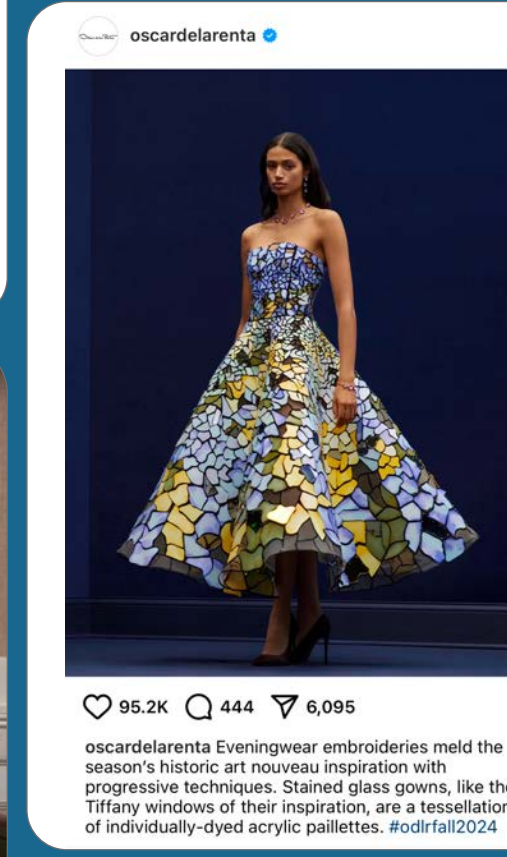
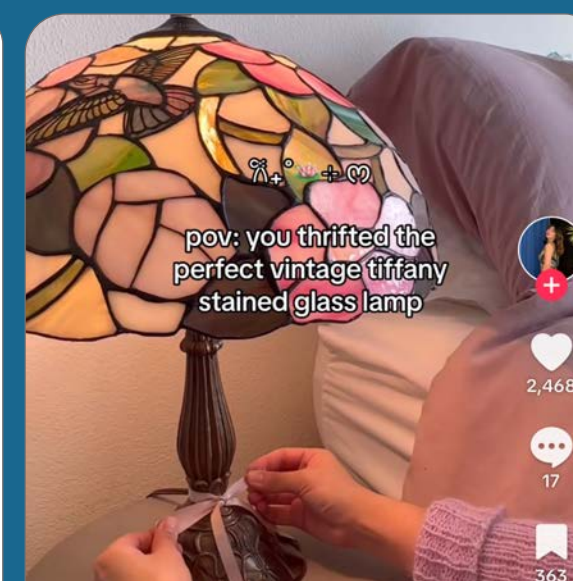
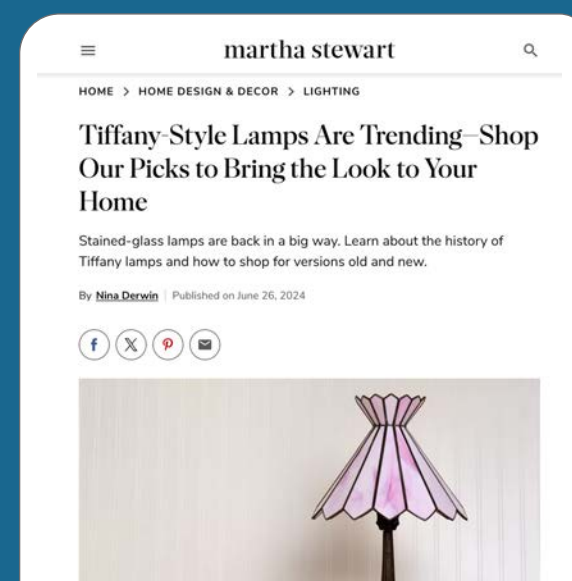
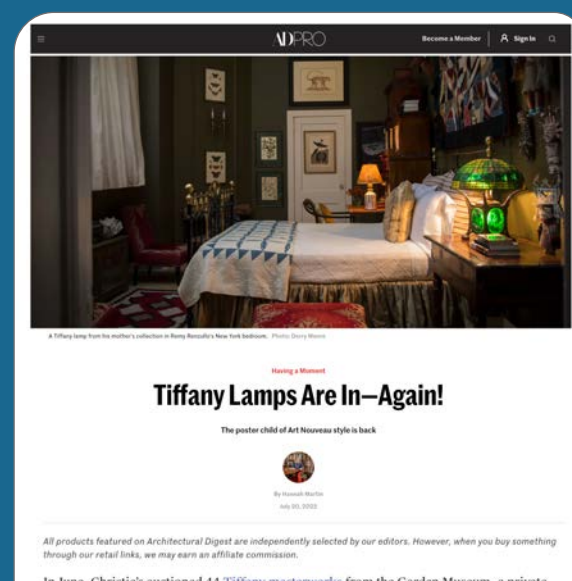
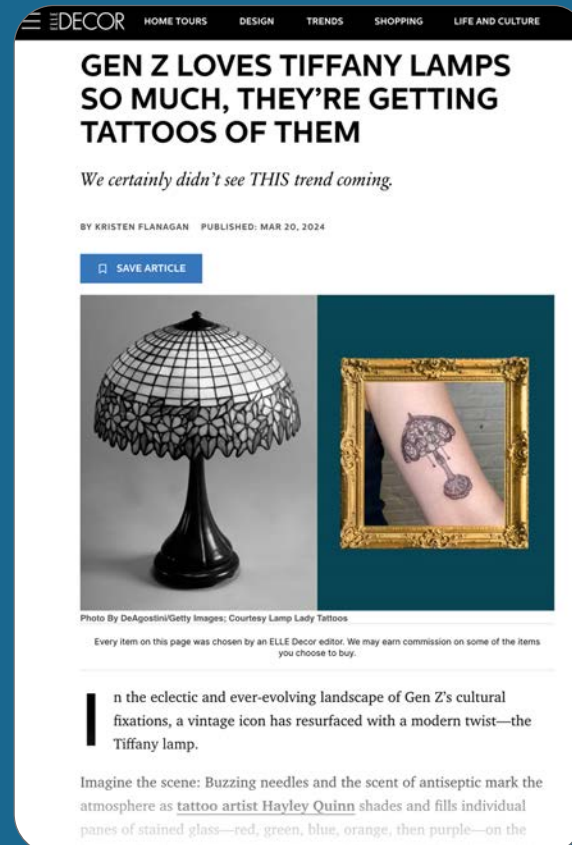
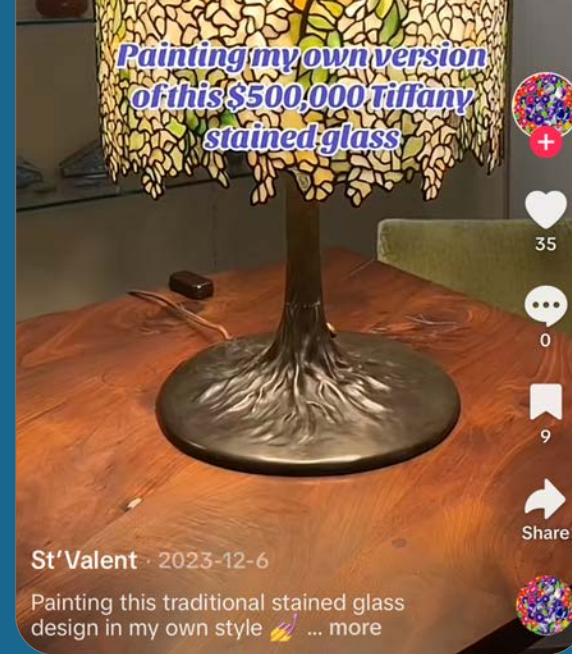
Hannah Martin, *Architectural Digest (ADPRO)*, July 20, 2022

Kristen Flanagan, *Elle Decor*, March 20, 2024

CENTER

*YouTube*, *Antiques Roadshow* PBS, November 15, 2022

All sites: retrieved January 16, 2025.











## EXHIBITION OUTLINE

### TIFFANY OR TI-PHONY? A STORY OF DESIRE

**Introduce** visitors to the iconic Tiffany lamp and its infamous imitators.  
**Consider** why the difference matters.

*Includes* 1 genuine Tiffany lamp  
1 lamp forgery

### WHAT'S IN A NAME? HALLMARKS OF TIFFANY LAMPS

**Discover** the exceptional artistry and exquisite craftsmanship that make real Tiffany lamps so desirable.

*Includes* 17 genuine Tiffany lamps  
1 tabletop display of opalescent glass from the Tiffany Glass Archive  
1 model demonstrating the lampshade-making process

### LOVE, LOSS, AND THE TIFFANY REVIVAL

**Explore** the striking shifts in popularity and desirability of Tiffany lamps and uncover how and why forgeries entered the market.

*Includes* A selection of Tiffany revival ephemera, including framed magazine covers, advertisements, vinyl LP covers, photographs, restaurant souvenirs, publications, posters, kits, Tiffany-style advertising lamps, a lamp reproduction, etc.

### BUYER BEWARE: DECEPTION AND DISCOVERY

**Examine** side-by-side comparisons and discover key considerations for spotting genuine Tiffany lamps and their convincing counterparts.

*Includes* 5 genuine Tiffany lamps  
5 lamp forgeries  
Interactive component (digital)

### EYE OF THE BEHOLDER: WHICH LAMPS DO YOU DESIRE?

**Imagine** being a collector and have fun assessing 4 groups of lamps containing Tiffanys and Ti-phonys of the same design.

*Includes* 7 genuine Tiffany lamps  
9 lamp forgeries  
Interactive component

### ENDURING DESIRE: TIFFANY LAMPS TODAY

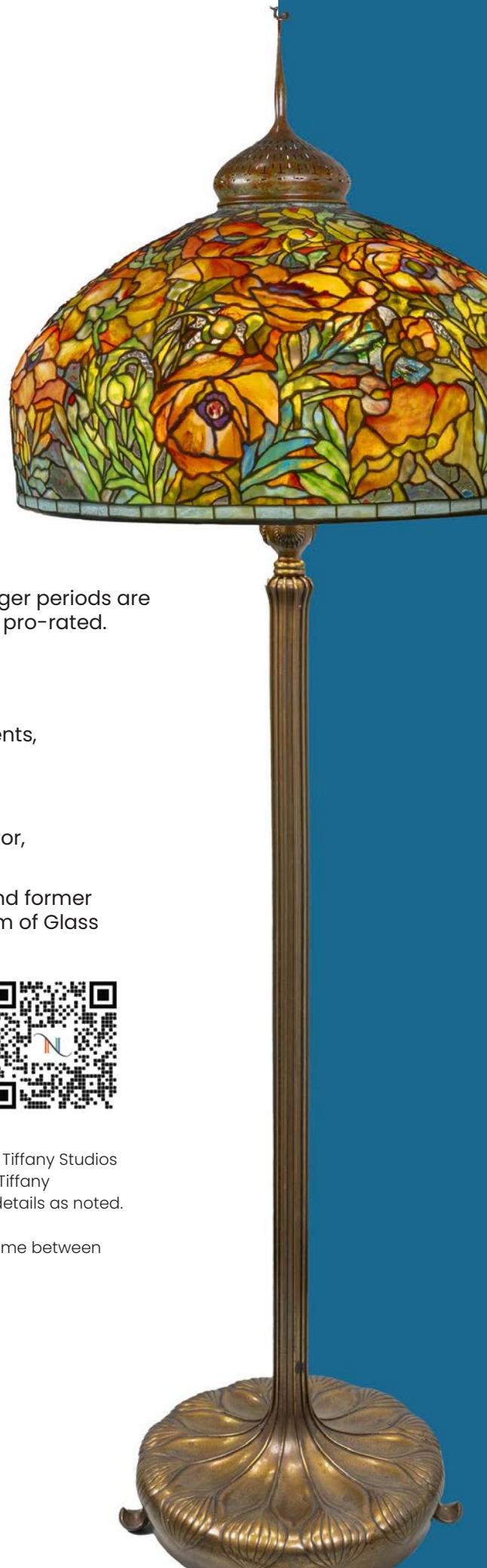
**Reflect** on the persistent popularity of Tiffany lamps.  
**Ask** how visitors have experienced the influence of Tiffany lamps in their lives.

*Includes* A selection of images showing contemporary Tiffany representations and interpretations  
1 illustrated guest book



# EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

<b>NUMBER OF WORKS</b>	45 lamps (30 genuine, 15 forgeries), ephemera, selection of opalescent glass from the Tiffany Glass Archive, model demonstrating lampshade-making process
<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	High security Approximately 5,000–6,000 square feet
<b>PARTICIPATION FEE</b>	Please inquire.
<b>SHIPPING</b>	Organized by The Neustadt. Exhibitor is responsible for round-trip or pro-rated shipping to be determined as bookings are finalized.
<b>BOOKING PERIOD</b>	Exhibition/tour dates are 12-week venues; longer periods are available upon request; additional weeks are pro-rated.
<b>TOUR</b>	January 2026 – December 2030
<b>SUPPORT MATERIAL</b>	Exhibition interpretation, interactive components, and installation guide are included. Merchandise is available at additional cost.
<b>CURATED BY</b>	<b>Lindsay R. Parrott</b> , Executive Director and Curator, The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass <b>Alexandra M. Ruggiero</b> , Consulting Curator and former Curator of Modern Glass, The Corning Museum of Glass
<b>CONTACT</b>	Online: <a href="https://theneustadt.org/exhibitions/road">theneustadt.org/exhibitions/road</a> Email: <a href="mailto:lparrott@theneustadt.org">lparrott@theneustadt.org</a>



All objects property of The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass.

Unless otherwise noted, all genuine lamps shown in this document were created by Tiffany Studios in New York sometime between 1902 and 1915, under the artistic direction of Louis C. Tiffany (1848–1933). Glass, cut and assembled, or blown; cast bronze hardware. Additional details as noted.

All Tiffany-style forgeries in this document were created by unknown makers sometime between 1970 and 1984.

Photography by David Schlegel.



FRONT *Peony Library Lamps*  
LEFT Tiffany, GL.11; RIGHT Forgery, S.29  
BACK *Oriental Poppy Floor Lamp*, Tiffany, GL.12