

# TIFFANY or Tiphony?

THE ART OF LOOKING

An exhibition organized by



the neustadt  
EXPERIENCE TIFFANY GLASS

# TIFFANY or Tiphony?

## THE ART OF LOOKING

is the largest traveling exhibition of Tiffany lamps to date. Drawn from The Neustadt's renowned collection, this exhibition takes visitors on an exploration of genuine Tiffany lamps and their deliciously deceptive imitators. Exciting new research and careful comparisons illuminate the world of Tiffany forgeries and demystify the art of spotting one. It's a tale of artistic vision, a fickle market, and the importance (and fun!) of learning to look.

**50 Lamps: 33 real, 17 convincing forgeries.**

**CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?**

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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



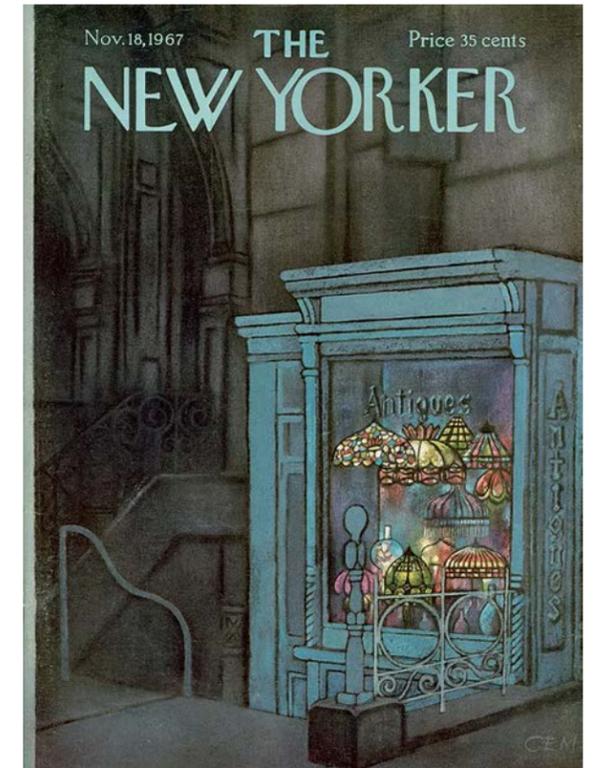
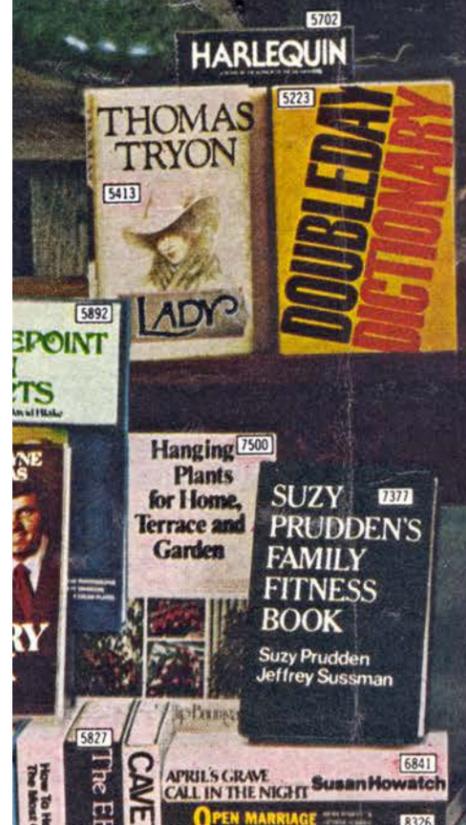


## Love, loss, and the Tiffany Revival

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.

54 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; Photo, Steve Jobs at home by Diana Walker-Contour, 1982; 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 simply 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-phony*. 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

## LEARNING TO LOOK

The best way to spot a Tiphony is to practice the art of LOOKING.

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.

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.

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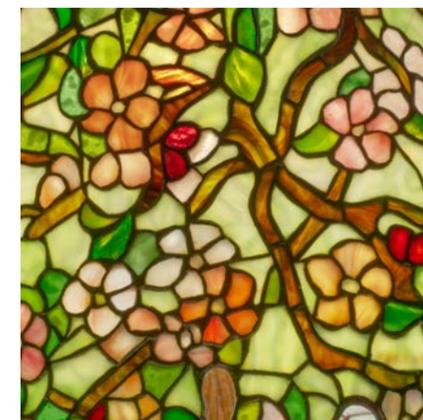
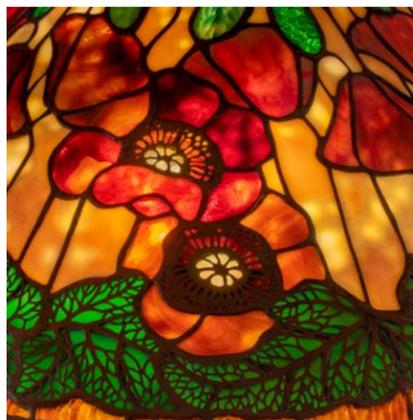
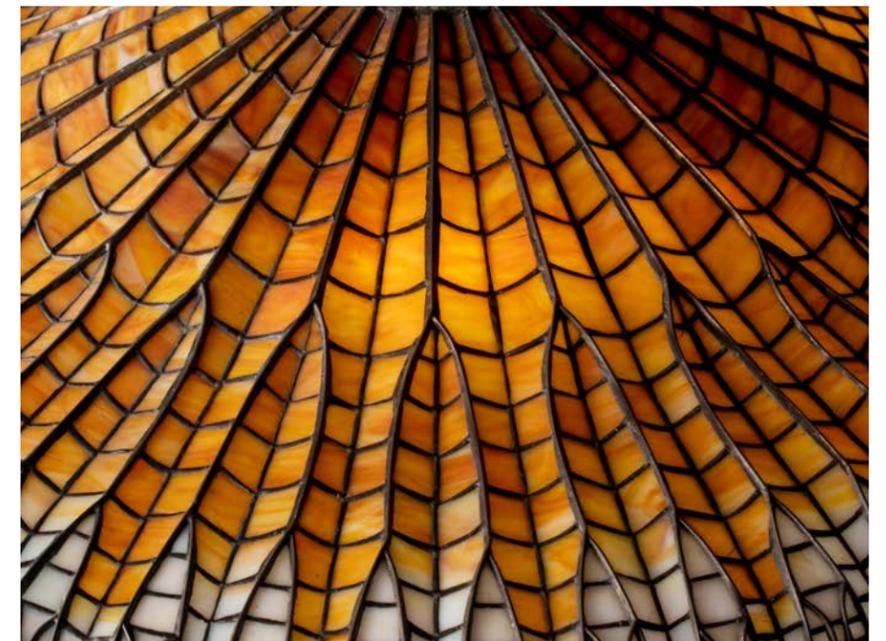
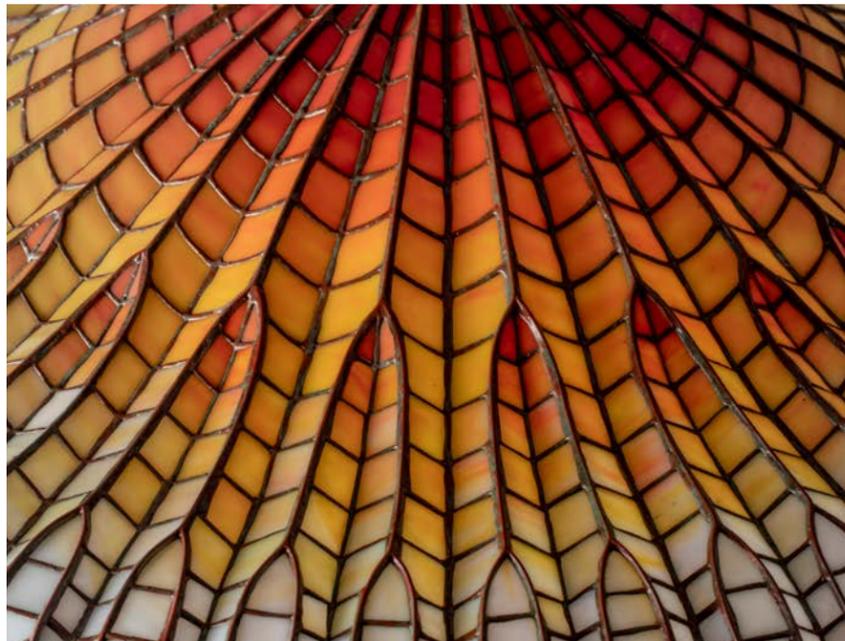
TOP LEFT *Dragonfly* Library Lamp details LEFT Tiffany, C.11; RIGHT Forgery, S.16

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

### CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

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 Tiphonies 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 Tiphonies?

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



## OBJECTIVES AND OBJECTS BY SECTION

### I. TIFFANY OR TIPHONY?

**Introduce** visitors to the iconic Tiffany lamp and its infamous imitators.

Includes 1 genuine Tiffany lamp  
1 lamp forgery

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

**Consider** the quintessential characteristics of real Tiffany lamps, including glass selection and craftsmanship.

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

### III. 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 6 Tiffany publications  
2 exhibition posters  
1 gallery wall of Tiffany revival ephemera, including framed magazine covers, advertisements, vinyl LP covers, photographs, restaurant souvenirs, etc.  
3 Tiffany-style advertising lamps  
2 lampshade-making kits with lamp forms  
5 instructional craft books  
1 lamp forgery

### IV. BUYER BEWARE: LEARNING TO LOOK

**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

### V. EYE OF THE BEHOLDER: CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

**Imagine** being a collector and have fun using new skills to assess 5 groups of lamps containing Tiffanys and Tiphonies of the same design.

Includes 10 genuine Tiffany lamps  
10 lamp forgeries



Lotus Globe, T.06

# EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

<b>NUMBER OF WORKS</b>	50 lamps (33 genuine, 17 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 roundtrip 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>	March 2025 – December 2030
<b>SUPPORT MATERIAL</b>	Exhibition interpretation 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 *Grape Library Lamps*  
LEFT Tiffany, IU.07; RIGHT Forgery, S.50  
BACK *Oriental Poppy Floor Lamp*, Tiffany, GL.12