

# PRESS RELEASE

> LES ARTS DÉCORATIFS

[www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr](http://www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr)



1. Graphic design: Bernard Lagacé; photos: Laurent Sully Jaulmes and Jean Tholance

## TREASURES OF SAND AND FIRE

GLASS AND CRYSTAL AT LES ARTS DÉCORATIFS, 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

9 april to 15 november 2015

CONTACTS PRESSE

made possible with the support of:

**Les Amis des Arts Décoratifs**

**The Friends of the Musées  
des Arts Décoratifs**

Isabelle MENDOZA

Louise CURTIS

TEL. : +33 01 44 55 58 78

FAX : +33 01 44 55 57 93

[presse@lesartsdecoratifs.fr](mailto:presse@lesartsdecoratifs.fr)  
[www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr](http://www.lesartsdecoratifs.fr)



2. Glass with neo-Gothic decoration, Cristallerie de Saint Louis France, circa 1835 © Jean Tholance



3. Lino Tagliapietra, Vase, hot-modelled blown glass, cabled filigree decoration in relief, 1993 © Jean Tholance



4. Yoichi Ohira, Cristallo Sommerso Scolpito no. 68, Venice, 2009 © Jean Tholance

IN THE MUSÉE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS' RIVOLI GALLERY, THE "TREASURES OF SAND AND FIRE, GLASS AND CRYSTAL AT LES ARTS DÉCORATIFS, 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY" EXHIBITION WILL FEATURE A SELECTION OF MORE THAN 600 EXCEPTIONAL PIECES FROM THE MUSEUM'S RESERVE COLLECTION. CHRONOLOGICALLY, FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT DAY, THE EXHIBITION TRACES THE DEVELOPMENT OF GLASSMAKING SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES, REVEALING THE COLLECTION'S WEALTH AND VARIETY. IT PROVIDES A FASCINATING PANORAMA OF THE SPECIFIC STYLES, TECHNIQUES AND TASTES OF EACH PERIOD, PAYING TRIBUTE TO EUROPEAN, ORIENTAL AND AMERICAN SCHOOLS AND CREATIVE CENTRES. THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE TWELVE ROOMS ALSO EVOKES THE HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM'S CONSTRUCTION OF THIS HERITAGE, THROUGH PURCHASES AND ABOVE ALL DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS BY ENLIGHTENED COLLECTORS, AS ALWAYS COMBINING THE BEAUTIFUL AND THE USEFUL. "TREASURES OF SAND AND FIRE" IS THE HISTORY OF GLASS TOLD BY THIS COLLECTION, TODAY REGARDED AS ONE OF THE FINEST IN EUROPE.

This exhibition is the first major panorama of the history of glass since the Art du Verre exhibition at Les Arts Décoratifs in 1951. This international dimension goes hand in hand with the particular attention paid to French glassmakers, illustrated by comparisons between ancient and contemporary pieces and production methods. A progression of ornamental pieces,

ordinary household objects and artworks will lead the visitor chronologically from the first to the second floor of the exhibition. Each piece also illustrates the tastes of collectors who actively enriched the collection, and highlights the major acquisitions the museum has been making since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Arabo-Islamic pieces such as Mameluke enamelled glass are compared to the

creations of Philippe J. Brocard in Paris and the Lobmeyr company in Vienna, alongside the Chinese Qing dynasty glassware that so fascinated émile Gallé. The exhibition also takes visitors through the history of European glass from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, via donations and bequests by passionate collectors such as Patrice Salin, Madeleine Bougenaux, François Carnot



5. Two Mermaids bowl, René Lalique (1860-1945), France, Salon des Artistes Français 1909, moulded glass, wheel-engraved and patinated, frosted interior © Jean Tholance



6. Mosque lamp in the name of Sultan Baibars II, Egypt or Syria, 1309-1310, blown glass © Jean Tholance



7. Maurice Marinot, Golden Parrot bottle, 1928 © Jean Tholance

and Madame Fernand Bernard. The modernization of the glass industry in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century prompted the emergence of French luxury glass and crystal works at centres such as Baccarat. The originality of the “opal crystal” they produced is one of the collection’s keynotes.

Les Arts Décoratifs did much to nurture the blooming and promotion of a new art of glass, and until 1914 amassed a superb collection featuring works by Emile Gallé, René Lalique and François-Eugène Rousseau.

This active acquisitions policy lost impetus after the First World War, but spectacular additions such as the bequest by Monsieur and Madame Barthou, passionate collectors of the

glassmakers Maurice Marinot and François Décorchemont, continued to enrich the museum.

One of the rooms on the upper floor explores the history of drinking glasses from 1900 to today. The other rooms on this floor are devoted to French and foreign creation over the last forty years. This period also saw the emergence of new specialised organisations reflecting this new dynamism, such as the founding of the Centre du Verre at Les Arts Décoratifs in 1982 and the Rencontres Internationales du Musée du Verre de Sars Poterie. The exhibition also highlights the generations of artists who have transformed the approach to glass since the 1960s, featuring the recent wave of talented artists with pieces by

Stanislav Libensky, Jaroslava Brychtova, Bertil Valien, Richard Meitner, Bernard Dejonghe, Toots Zynsky, Gaetano Pesce, Ettore Sottsass and younger creators such as Damien François, Vanessa Mitrani and Martin Hlubucek. The Centre International de Recherche sur le Verre et les Arts Plastiques in Marseille, and the Centre International d’Art Verrier at Meisenthal, two institutions actively involved in contemporary creation, will be showing recent work by Philippe Parreno (CIRVA), Michel Paysant (CIAV), and David Dubois (CIAV et CIRVA). A history of glass past and present, of taste and of a unique collection, this exhibition explores every facet of this extraordinary material that can take every form and every colour.

## RENSEIGNEMENTS PRATIQUES

### Curators:

- > Jean-Luc OLIVIER, curator in chief, Glass Department
- > Véronique AYROLES, curatorial assistant

### Exhibition design:

- > Philippe PUMAIN

#### LES ARTS DÉCORATIFS

Bruno ROGER,  
Chairman  
David CAMÉO,  
General director  
Olivier GABET,  
Museums director  
Pascale de SEZE,  
Communication director

#### THE MUSEUMS

##### THE ARTS DÉCORATIFS MUSEUMS

107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris  
> phone +33 01 44 55 57 50  
Metro stations : Palais-Royal, Pyramides,  
Tuileries  
Open Tuesday to Sunday 11am to 6pm  
(Late opening Thursday until 9pm :  
Temporary exhibitions and jewellery  
gallery only)  
admission > full rate: 11 €  
> reduced rate: 8.50 €

##### MUSÉE NISSIM DE CAMONDO

63 rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris  
> phone +33 01 53 89 06 40  
Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am  
to 5.30pm  
Closed Monday and Tuesday  
admission > full rate: 9 €  
> reduced rate: 6.50 €

#### EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES

The Educational and Cultural Department  
organises museum tours for adults,  
groups and individuals  
> reservations +33 01 44 55 59 26  
thematic workshop-tours and guided  
tours related to an exhibition for 4 to  
18 year-olds  
> reservations +33 01 44 55 59 25  
lectures and panel discussions  
> reservations +33 01 44 55 59 75

#### LIBRARY

The Arts Décoratifs Library  
107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris  
> phone +33 01 44 55 59 36  
Open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 6pm

#### ÉCOLE CAMONDO

266 boulevard Raspail, 75014 Paris  
> phone +33 01 43 35 44 28

#### ATELIERS DU CARROUSEL

107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris  
266 boulevard Raspail, 75014 Paris  
63 rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris  
> phone +33 01 44 55 59 02

#### PARTNERS' CLUB

The Partners' Club brings together firms  
wishing to participate in promoting Les  
Arts Décoratifs, developing a lasting  
relationship with our institution and  
broadening their network of contacts.  
It acts as a laboratory for ideas and  
interaction between economic and  
cultural actors and creators.  
Members – at three different levels –  
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#### LES AMIS

Les Amis des Arts Décoratifs promote  
the Arts Décoratifs museums and library  
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contributes to the enrichment and  
restoration of the museum's collections.  
Members have free admission to the Arts  
Décoratifs museums and can participate  
in private visits, thematic days and  
cultural tours.  
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#### THE MUSEUM BOUTIQUE

**107RIVOLI**  
ART MODE DESIGN PARIS  
107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris  
> phone +33 01 42 60 64 94  
Open 10am to 7pm  
Closed Monday

#### THE RESTAURANT

**Le Saut du Loup**  
RESTAURANT - BAR - TERRACE  
107 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris  
or access via the Carrousel Gardens  
> phone +33 01 56 88 50 60

#### WEBSITE

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