

RICHMOND'S TASTE FOR TIFFANY

Famous glass has 2nd home

WHY: World-class glass, angels on high and Tiffany on tour.

HOW FAR: About eight miles from start to finish, and about 100 miles from Washington.

There is glass, and then there is Tiffany glass.

Between the 1870s and 1920s, American artist Louis Comfort Tiffany elevated this somewhat utilitarian medium to high art, coaxing dimension and emotion from modest scraps and shards. In his hands, halos glowed and flowers blossomed.

Richmond, whose port traded heavily with Tiffany's home town of New York, boasts a surprisingly high concentration of his works given the capital's size. With [the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts](#)' new permanent galleries, which open Saturday, plus other public pieces around town, the city's holdings exceed those in Washington and elsewhere in Virginia.

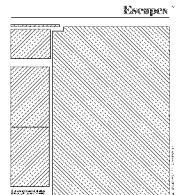
In addition, this spring, Richmond puts the artist on a glass pedestal for the "Tiffany: Color and Light," held at the VMFA between May 29 and Aug. 15. About 170 items will be on display, demonstrating his strengths in

stained glass, lamps and vases, as well as his forays into painting, mosaics and other decorative arts. The show has appeared in Paris and Montreal, but the Richmond museum, which contributed works from its own collection, is the sole U.S. stop. To stoke interest around the state, the museum created "Tiffany Windows of Virginia," an online listing of 20 sites, with a downloadable audio tour.

To be sure, Tiffany's creations pop up in everyday settings, including churches, historic homes, even the local cemetery. At Maymont Mansion, for example, one of his windows soars 15 feet high, basking nearly two floors in the serene glow of golden grapevines and azure skies. At Hollywood Cemetery, glass "gems" gleam in the Tiffany windows lining the mausoleum of cigarette magnate Lewis Ginter. And at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 10 Tiffany windows and a mosaic altarpiece bathe the space in ethereal blues and grays.

Encountering Tiffany's glasswork is an "almost religious experience," says VMFA director Alex Nyerges.

Such is the transcendent power of Tiffany.
— *Jenny Mayo*





A Cobweb Lamp by Clara Driscoll for Tiffany, made of leaded glass, bronze and glass mosaic tiles, is part of "Tiffany: Color and Light," which opens May 29 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.



JENNY MAYO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A detail of Tiffany window at Lewis Ginter's mausoleum at the Hollywood Cemetery.

KATHERINE WETZEL/VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

1 VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

"Tiffany: Color and Light" will exhibit works appearing in America for the first time, such as eight windows from Montreal's Erskine and American United Church. 200 N. Boulevard, Richmond, 804-340-1400. www.vmfamuseum.org. "Tiffany: Color and Light" tickets: \$15; \$12 seniors, students, and children 7-17. Museum admission free.

2 MAYMONT MANSION

The Gilded Age abode houses two works by Tiffany, plus some designed by his father's business, Tiffany & Co. 1700 Hampton St., Richmond, 804-358-7166. www.maymont.org. \$5 suggested donation for house tour. The special curator's tour, "A Tale of Two Tiffanys," runs Friday, noon-1 p.m. between May 28 and Aug. 13; \$10.

3 HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY

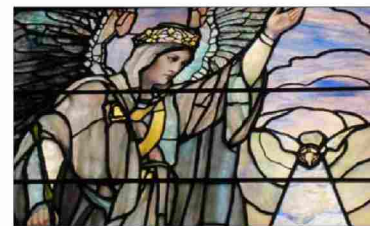
Local businessman Lewis Ginter's mausoleum sports three Tiffany windows and a James River view. 412 S. Cherry St., Richmond, 804-648-8501. www.hollywoodcemetery.org.

4 CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH

Use the temple's Mount Sinai window for inspiration, then create your own masterwork in a Tiffany coloring book from the gift shop. 1111 W. Franklin St., Richmond, 804-358-6757. www.bethahabah.org. \$5 suggested donation.

5 JEFFERSON HOTEL

Experts disagree on whether the Palm Court's side windows are by Tiffany, but printed materials from the Beaux Arts hotel support this claim. 101 W. Franklin St., Richmond, 804-424-8014. www.jeffersonhotel.com.



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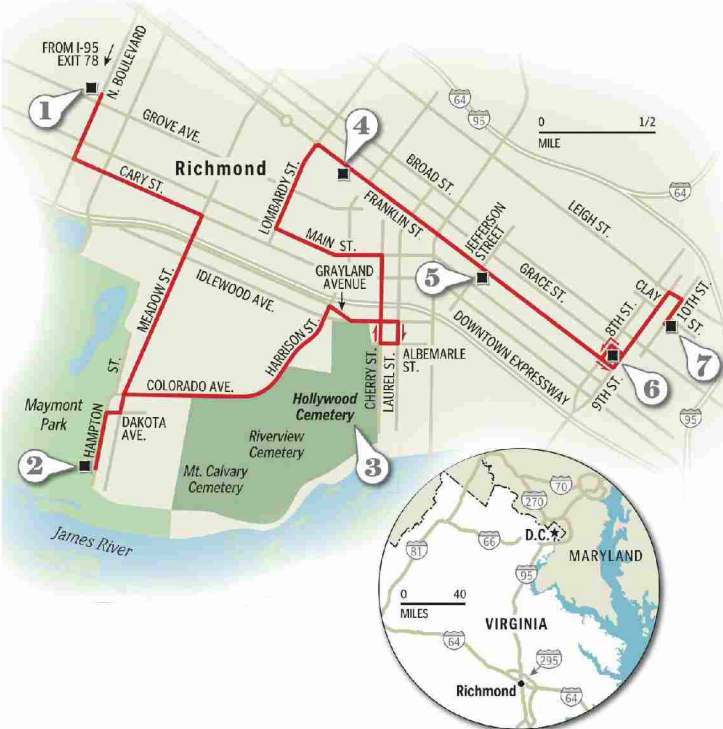
A detail of "The Annunciation" at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

6 ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Brochures near the sanctuary entrance and free guided tours after the 11:15 a.m. Sunday service highlight the Tiffany treasures here. 815 E. Grace St., Richmond, 804-643-3589. www.stpauls-episcopal.org.

7 VALENTINE RICHMOND HISTORY CENTER

On July 17, the center offers the Beauty of Tiffany Glass bus tour, which visits many of his commissioned pieces. 1015 E. Clay St., Richmond, 804-649-0711. www.richmondhistorycenter.com. \$23, \$20 children 6-18, children younger than 6 free.



JEROME COOKSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST