

First Class

COLOR IT TIFFANY

Art lovers interested in “first” and “only” exhibitions for 2010 will want to travel to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Va., the only U.S. venue for the exhibition “Tiffany: Color and Light,” running May 29 through Aug. 15. The approximately 170 Louis Comfort Tiffany works in glass, metal and jewelry illustrate how this innovator altered the direction of decorative arts, interior design and architecture. The exhibition’s première at the Musée du Luxembourg dazzled Paris last year.

The Virginia show will feature more Tiffanys than the Paris show, including works from the museum’s own world-renowned Lewis Collection of Decorative Art, which features substantial Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts Tiffanys—among them, some of his most creative lamps. The show represents the first time since the VMFA’s blockbuster Fabergé exhibition in 1996 that it has collaborated with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which has 42 objects in the exhibition—the largest number of Tiffany objects from a single museum.

“Tiffany: Color and Light” will be the first international show in the VMFA’s new \$150 million James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin Wing, the largest expansion in the museum’s 75-year history. Opening May 1, the wing adds 165,000 square feet to the museum’s previous 380,000 square feet. According to VMFA director Alex Nyerges, the Tiffany exhibition will occupy 7,000 square feet of the nearly 12,000 square feet of special-exhibition space in the new wing. vmfa.state.va.us



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, RICHMOND, GIFT OF SYDNEY AND FRANCES LEWIS.
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