



Vase

Cristallerie de Gallé

Not on display

Title/Description: Vase

Artist/Maker: Cristallerie de Gallé (Manufacturer)

Born: 1910 c.

Object Type: Vase

Materials: Cameo glass, Glass

Technique: Blow moulding, Cameo glass, Etching

Measurements: h. 305 x w. 110 x d. 110 mm

Inscription: Cameo mark '*Galle'

Accession Number: 21025

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: France, Nancy

School/Style: Art Nouveau

Credit Line: Donated by Sir Colin and Lady Anderson, 1978

This vase was produced by the innovative French glasswork factory established by Emile Gallé in Nancy in the 1870s. Gallé achieved international fame for his glassware, which fused experimental glassmaking techniques, with designs inspired by the symbolic properties of nature. In this delicate vase, layers of pink, mauve and green glass have been etched to create a decoration of flowering wisteria. The star prefix to Gallé's signature on the side of this vase indicates that it was produced by the factory after his death in 1904 and it has been dated to around 1910.

During his lifetime, Gallé was instrumental in establishing Nancy as a major centre for the Art Nouveau style. He employed approximately three hundred skilled craftsmen and women in his factory. [1] Under Gallé's supervision, they produced stylish glassware for an elite commercial market, selling in Gallé's shops in Paris, London and Frankfurt. [2] While the business prospered, Gallé continued to focus on designing unique works, which were eagerly collected by wealthy patrons and friends. The factory remained active until 1935 and was well known for its production of acid-etched cameo glassware like this vase.

The Andersons acquired a total of ten works in glass by Gallé and three pieces of furniture for their Art Nouveau collection in the 1960s. All reflect Gallé's fascination with the natural world, which inspired the form, decoration and symbolism of his designs. The significance of nature as a source for Gallé's work is evident in the personal motto which he had inscribed on his factory doors in 1896: 'Ma racine est au fond des bois' (my roots are in the heart of the woods).

Lisa Newby, June 2020

[1] Philippe Gardner, *Emile Gallé* (London: Academy Editions, 1976), p.28.

[2] Ibid., p.109.

Exhibitions

The First Moderns, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, 2011-12-01 - 2012-12-31

Sense and Sensuality, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, 2014-02-14 - 2014-12-07

Art Nouveau: The Nature of Dreams, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, 2020-03-29 - 2020-09-13

Further Reading

Johnson, Penny, Art Nouveau, The Anderson Collection, 1978 (p. 13)

Geitner, Amanda and Emma Hazell (Eds.), The Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau, Norwich: Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, 2003 (cat.15, p.146, ill. p.26,27,67)
