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PRESS RELEASE

Flint Institute of Arts
1120 E. Kearsley Street
Flint, MI. 48503

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Second Summer of Glass at the Flint Institute of Arts

The Flint Institute of Arts (FIA) is the only Midwest venue for two major glass exhibitions: *Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect: A Modern Renaissance in Italian Glass* features 160 works by the revered Venetian maestro of glassblowing. *Louis Comfort Tiffany: Articles of Utility, Objects of Art* includes 40 of the finest leaded glass lamps created by the foremost American glassmaker of the 20th century. The exhibitions will continue through August 15. FIA galleries will be closed on July 4 in observance of the national holiday.

Renowned glass master, Lino Tagliapietra is widely revered in his native Italy as the maestro of glassblowing and both teacher and mentor to many of the world's finest glass artists. Dale Chihuly is among the well known artists whom Tagliapietra has worked with and had a great influence on. "Lino represents the creative electricity that flows between two of the world's great centers of art, Murano, Italy and the Pacific Northwest" said Timothy Close, Director of the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington and the show's organizer. Tagliapietra's art is rooted in the 1,000 year old Venetian glass making tradition but takes the medium to a new level of beauty and craftsmanship.

The exhibition *Louis Comfort Tiffany: Objects of Utility, Objects of Art* goes beyond the general appreciation of the beauty of Tiffany Lamps by examining the artistry and social context of these iconic objects. Although Tiffany was an accomplished painter, jewelry maker and sculptor it is his lamps and church windows for which he is best known. Nature was the inspiration for the motifs used most often by Tiffany in his designs. Images of dragonflies, peacocks, flowers and vines in rich colors and hues decorate the shades of the lamps created as both objects of art and objects of utility.

Many of Tiffany's lamps have been lost or destroyed over time and, as is often the case with artists of this stature, his designs have been copied, imitated and reproduced. This show, which includes tools, materials and period photographs, provides visitors to the FIA with a rare opportunity to view the real thing and gain a better appreciation of Tiffany's remarkable artistry. This exhibition is sponsored by Citizens Bank.

The Flint Institute of Arts is conveniently located 2 blocks from the I-475/I-69 exchange between UM-Flint and Mott College at 1120 E. Kearsley Street.

Gallery Hours: Mon-Wed & Fri, 12p-5p; Thu, 12p-9p; Sat, 10a-5p and Sun, 1p-5p. Call 810-234-1695 or www.flintarts.org

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