

# Art A DayCHALLENGE: The Flow of Nouveau

## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

**FA3: Use societal, cultural, and historical contexts to develop appropriate interpretations of various artistic works**

**Enduring Understanding: Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative artmaking goals.**

How does knowing the contexts histories, & traditions of art forms help us create works of art & design? Why do artists follow or break from established traditions?

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag

## #ARTaDayCHALLENGE

Stuff you'll need: Read through the challenge to decide...the materials you use are up to you!

### Words to know:

**Art Nouveau**- pronounced (Noo-vow): An art movement or an approach to design which artists believed art should be applied to all parts of life and all things created by hand. Art Nouveau artists looked to nature and organic, flowy shapes for inspiration. This movement was most popular from 1890-1910, especially in Europe.

**Organic shapes**-shapes that are irregular or asymmetrical and are often flowy and curvy. Shapes in nature are often organic (think about the shape of leaves or vines).

**LOOK** at this **organic**, fluid shaped vase made by Louis Comfort Tiffany (L.C. Tiffany). L. C. Tiffany was the son of Charles Lewis Tiffany, the founder of the famous New York jewelry and silver firm (Tiffany and Company). L.C. Tiffany became a glassmaker and established a glassmaking company in New York.

The vase is made out of blown glass. L.C. Tiffany was inspired by ancient glass that had been through centuries of corrosion and recreated the look by developing a special glass glazing technique called Favrite, which, in Old English means "hand-wrought".

This vessel is the epitome of the **Art Nouveau** movement which is known to break with traditions and look to exotic sources for inspiration. Not only was L.C. Tiffany inspired by the appearance of ancient glass, he also looked to perfume sprinklers produced in Persia as inspiration for the long neck of the vase.

**THINK** about the **Art Nouveau** flowy, **organic** style. Think about how shapes from nature play a role in design in this vase and in objects around you.

**CREATE** your own **Art Nouveau** inspired art! Find an object in your home. This can be furniture, a mug, a fork, any object you have close by! Recreate this object as if you were an **Art Nouveau** artist. Imagine flowy, **organic** movement, exotic influences, and breaking of traditional ideas!

**Writing Journal Prompt:** Write about how your newly designed object reflects **Art Nouveau** style. If you tried to use this object the way you normally would have used it, would it work the same way? If it will not work the same way, why not?



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Louis Comfort Tiffany  
American, 1848-1933  
Tiffany Glass Decorating  
Company or Tiffany  
Furnaces  
Vase, ca. 1894-1918

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