



Vase

Emile Gallé

Not on display

Title/Description: Vase

Artist/Maker: Emile Gallé (Designer)

Born: 1900 c.

Object Type: Vase

Materials: Cameo glass, Glass

Technique: Blow moulding, Cameo glass, Etching

Measurements: h. 210 x w. 65 x d. 65 mm

Inscription: Cameo mark 'Galle'

Accession Number: 21026

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. By 1900, Gallé had achieved international fame for his glassware, which fused experimental glassmaking techniques, with designs inspired by the symbolic properties of nature. For this vase, the pink and grey glass body has been overlaid with etched green glass to create the intricate sea holly decoration.

Gallé employed approximately three hundred skilled craftsmen and women in his factory in Nancy. [1] Under Gallé's supervision, they produced stylish glassware for an elite commercial market. This vase is typical of the acid-etched cameo glassware produced for these ranges, which were sold 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 range of Gallé's experimentations with technique, form and ornamentation secured his reputation for transforming glassware design. Nancy became a major centre for the Art Nouveau style and although Gallé died in 1904, his factory

remained active until 1935.

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

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.9, p.145, ill. p.26,67)
