

WORLD ART COLLECTIONS EXHIBITIONS

SAINSBURY CENTRE
for Visual Arts



Dragonfly brooch, 1890 -1900
Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau
UEA 21157

Press Release

The Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau

A major new exhibition of *The Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau* opens at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia (UEA), Norwich, on Tuesday 9 February and runs until Sunday 23 May. The collection, which comprises jewellery, furniture, glassware and metalwork, was given to the University of East Anglia in 1978 by Sir Colin and Lady Anderson, and is considered one of the most exquisite privately assembled collections in the country. Pieces by the leading exponents of Art Nouveau will be on display including Emile Gallé, René Lalique, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Minton and Royal Doulton. Visitors will be also be able to see a new addition to the collection, a stunning dragonfly brooch, which has recently been generously donated.

The much-loved Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau is exhibited every three years at the Sainsbury Centre.

“We have the exciting opportunity to re-present the entire Anderson Collection on a regular basis as part of the Sainsbury Centre’s special exhibitions programme. This means that our approach to the collection is constantly refreshed by the possibility of a different display aesthetic and, perhaps more importantly, by new research into all aspects of the Art Nouveau movement.” – Nichola Johnson, Director, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

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The new exhibition will offer insights in to the development of Art Nouveau by focusing on some of the key exponents represented in the Anderson Collection. Amongst the makers featured will be Emile Gallé, who developed innovative cameo glass techniques; Archibald Knox, who was a leading designer for Liberty & Co; and René Lalique, who initiated a revolution in French jewellery design.

The exhibition will tell the fascinating stories of names such as of Louis Comfort Tiffany who originally found success in interior design when his firm was commissioned for prestigious projects; these included the refurbishment of Mark Twain's house and rooms in the White House for President Arthur. Other stories will include: Georges Fouquet's life and his close relationship with the designer Alphonse Mucha, the influence of the Japanese style on Phillipe Wolfers and the rise to fame of Louis Majorelle at the 1900 Paris Exposition Universelle. **Supplementary information available on request.**

Sir Colin and Lady Anderson were amongst the first British collectors to be seriously interested in Art Nouveau. From 1960, for just over a decade, they hunted for objects in galleries, auctions, junk shops and bric-a-brac stalls. They bought according to style rather than value, making a collection which is remarkably representative of the breadth of Art Nouveau design.

Sir Colin Anderson was grandson of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first woman to qualify as a medical doctor. He was part of a Suffolk based family who owned the Orient Shipping Line (later P&O). He became the design director of the Orient Line in the 1930s and was responsible for the fit-out of the famous liner HMS Orion, launched in 1935, which was widely praised for the innovation and modernity of its interior design. Sir Colin Anderson chaired the Trustees of the Tate Gallery from the 1960 to 1967 where he became friends with Sir Robert Sainsbury, a fellow trustee. It was this friendship, which lead to the Anderson Collection being given to the UEA with the Sainsbury's agreement in 1978 to be housed in the new Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

The *Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau* runs concurrently with *The Artist's Studio*, an exhibition which explores the ways artists have represented their workplaces in Britain since the mid-17th century. **Full press release available on request.**

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For further information or photographs please contact

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UEA University of
East Anglia

Notes to Editors

Dates, Times and Information

The Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau runs from Tuesday 29 September to Sunday 13 December 2009. The exhibition will be open Tuesday to Sunday (closed Monday), 10am to 5pm and until 8pm on Wednesdays. Tel 01603 593199 www.scva.ac.uk.

Combined Admission to The Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau and The Artist's Studio

£4, concessions £2

Family admission (up to 2 adults and 3 children) £8, concessions £8.

Marketing and Press Sponsor

National Express

Other Information

George Sexton Associates have provided the lighting and exhibition design for *The Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau*

The Sainsbury Centre is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and The Gatsby Charitable Foundation