

Progressive Aesthetics

A NEW EXHIBITION AT THE MORSE EXPLORES ART NOUVEAU.

At the turn of the 20th century, the *Art Nouveau* (or “new art”) movement reflected the era’s social and industrial progress and set in motion a reevaluation of the arts across Europe and, to a lesser extent, in America. Practitioners drew inspiration from nature and rejected historical styles and classical values. In its new exhibition, *Lifelines—Forms and Themes of Art Nouveau*, the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art explores the interrelated elements that define the artistic style.

More than 100 objects from the museum’s collection have been assembled, including furniture, architectural ornaments, lamps, jewelry, ceramics and art glass by more than 50 makers, designers and artists from nine countries. The exhibition is organized into five groups that illustrate the dominant themes in Art Nouveau objects: the exotic, nature, line, female form and metamorphosis. *Lifelines* will be an ongoing exhibition. **oam**



Table lamp; c. 1896, Loie Fuller Figure; Maker: Siot-Decauville; Designer: Raoul-François Larche; bronze; 18.5"



Pendant; c. 1900, autumn design; Maker: René Jules Lalique; gold, enamel; 4.75" x 1.25"

THE CHARLES HOSMER MORSE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART (5)



Hand screen; early 20th century; maker unknown; peacock feathers, wood, ribbon; 23.875"



Vase; c. 1905; Maker, glass: Quezal Art Glass & Decorating Company; Maker, silver mount: Alvin Silver Manufacturing Company; blown glass, silver; 5.75" x 4.75"



Side table; c. 1900, Model No. 323, Olga; Maker: Majorelle Frères & Nancy Cie; Designer: Louis Majorelle; fruitwood, gilt bronze; 31.25" x 30" x 23"