



## **FACT SHEET**

**April 20, 2018**

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**Exhibition:** *Celebrating Libbey Glass, 1818–2018*

**Dates:** May 4 – Nov. 25, 2018

**Venue:** Glass Pavilion

**Admission:** Free

**Content:** *Celebrating Libbey Glass, 1818–2018* pays homage to 200 years of glassblowing excellence of Libbey Inc. and the legacy of Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey. The exhibition is focused exclusively on the tableware produced by the company since its inception, drawn primarily from the Museum’s permanent collection with additional loans from the Libbey Inc. archive. The exhibition explores the evolution of design at Libbey Inc. from 1818 (when the company was known as the New England Glass Company) to present day.

**Highlights:** The Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) has more than 600 objects by Libbey in its permanent collection, with approximately 140 works from the TMA collection displayed in *Celebrating Libbey Glass*. It is because of the strength of TMA’s collection and archive material that this exhibition is possible.

The glass works on view are divided into three roughly chronological chapters of the firm’s history: “New England Glass Works, 1818-1888”; “Move to Toledo, 1888-1950”; and “Libbey Modern and Contemporary, 1930-present.”

Each section will showcase a stunning array of glass objects, including table and floor lamps, vases, pitchers, a range of goblets and other drinking glasses, decanters, and bowls as well as presentation objects made for the World’s Fair.

Libbey Glass Company’s luxury glassware exemplified excellence in age-old handcrafting practices of blowing and cutting glass, embodied in objects such as TMA’s extraordinary Libbey Punch Bowl, which was created for the St. Louis World’s Fair in 1903-04.

Objects from the Museum’s archive include a spun glass dress and a lithograph of the Libbey factory at the World’s Fair.

In addition to the Museum’s Libbey Glass collection, 45 loans from Libbey Inc. and private lenders, which date from the 1950s to today, help round out the exhibition.

A free family day celebration is scheduled for May 5, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features family entertainment, including giant chess on the Museum’s main terrace, art activities in the Family Center, sketching in the Georgia and David K. Welles Sculpture Garden, watercolor painting on the Museum grounds, and glassblowing demonstrations in the Glass Pavilion.

**Significance:**

*Celebrating Libbey Glass, 1818–2018* is a celebration of the extraordinary glassmaking in Toledo, the Glass City. The Toledo Museum of Art and Libbey Glass share a long history. By moving the glass company from East Cambridge, Massachusetts to Toledo, Ohio in 1888, Edward Drummond Libbey was instrumental in developing the industrial glass economy for Toledo, and later a vibrant glass arts community.

With the success of Libbey Glass, Mr. Libbey, along with his wife Florence Scott Libbey, founded the Toledo Museum of Art in 1901. In the early 1900s, Mr. Libbey spearheaded an initiative to improve the education of local craftsmen and designers by assembling a model glass collection, as well as promoting training, competitions, and exhibitions of new work.

In 1962, the Museum hosted a series of glassblowing workshops that launched the Studio Glass Movement. This breakthrough—using glass as an art medium—was made possible by the glass manufacturing industry that had taken root in Toledo eighty years earlier.

Three of the key contributors to the workshop (Harvey Littleton, Dominick Labino, and Harvey Leafgreen) were directly tied to two of Mr. Libbey’s contributions to the city of Toledo: the Toledo Museum of Art and the glass manufacturing industry. The Libbey legacy lives on in TMA’s DNA.

**Credits:**

*Celebrating Libbey Glass, 1818–2018* is sponsored in part by Libbey Inc. and the Ohio Arts Council.

**Curator:**

Diane C. Wright, Curator of Glass and Decorative Arts

**Information:**

Interviews with the exhibition curator are available by request.

A media preview day is scheduled for Thursday, May 3 at 1:30 p.m.

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