

MOULD-BLOWN 'WATERLILY' VASE

By Emile Gallé
Circa 1900

A triple overlaid, acid-etched and carved mould-blown vase, of flattened oviform shape, the decoration in high relief of flowering red waterlilies and dark brown leaves, on a ground colour of rich orange yellow.

Height	: 26.7 cms
Signatures	: Cameo 'Gallé' on side of vessel.
Reference	: Victor Arwas, 'Glass Art Nouveau to Art Deco', Academy Editions, 1987, pictured pg. 140.



Gallé blow-out (also known as mould-blown, or soufflé) vases are rare and very sought-after. The technique involves blowing a multi-layered vessel (with layers of glass in different colours) into a mould which has the 3-dimensional design of the final product. Then, by acid-etching and wheel carving, the detail emerges in the desired colours and relief. The ‘**WATERLILY**’ vase is the only mould-blown vase whose details are finished with wheel-carving, according to Arwas on page 140 of his book listed above.

These blow-out vases are seldom found in South Africa. This model appears on the dustcover of the Victor Arwas book : ‘Glass Art Nouveau to Art Deco’, First Edition.

What makes this particular model stand out from the rest of the mould-blown vases, is the fact that it is **triple** overlaid, whereas most mould-blown vases are only double overlaid. The extra overlay adds to the complexity and time it takes in manufacturing.

The red/pink colourway is particularly rare, and seen only once before by the seller. The colours on this vase are very strong and vibrant.

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