

## BLOW-OUT RHODODENDRON VASE

By Emile Gallé  
Circa 1900

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A very rare overlaid, acid-etched and carved blow-out vase, the decoration in high relief, of orange rhododendron blossoms with foliage. The ground is a frosted clear glass, the leaves in dark shades of burnt orange and dark red, and the flowers in light to dark orange.

Height : 25,5 cms  
Signatures : Cameo 'Gallé' on side of vessel.  
Reference : Victor Arwas, 'Glass Art Nouveau to Art Deco',  
Academy Editions, 1987, pgs. 106-153.



Gallé blow-out (also known as mould blown, or soufflé) vases are rare and very sought-after. It is not often that such a vase is found in South Africa. The *Rhododendron* vase is one of the most keenly sought. The same model also appears with red flowers and blue flowers. This is the first model ever seen by the sellers to appear with orange flowers.

Gallé blow-out vases are multi-layered vessels, just like all his cameo vases, but they were blown into a mould to give the design higher relief. After the usual acid-etching and wheel-carving, the design, in this case of a flowering rhododendron branch, stands out in three dimensions. Blow-out vases were a lot more expensive to produce than the usual cameo vases in their day, so far fewer were produced. They are therefore relatively scarce today.

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