

## BLOW-OUT RHODODENDRON VASE

By Emile Gallé  
Circa 1900

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An overlaid, acid-etched and carved blow-out vase, the decoration in high relief, of red rhododendron blossoms with foliage. The ground colour is a rich yellow amber, the leaves in dark shades, and the flowers in red.

Height : 26 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 blue or 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.

Gallé produced *RHODODENDRON* lamps, matching a glass mushroom shade to the base. These lamps are extremely sought-after, and are priced around US\$200000.



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