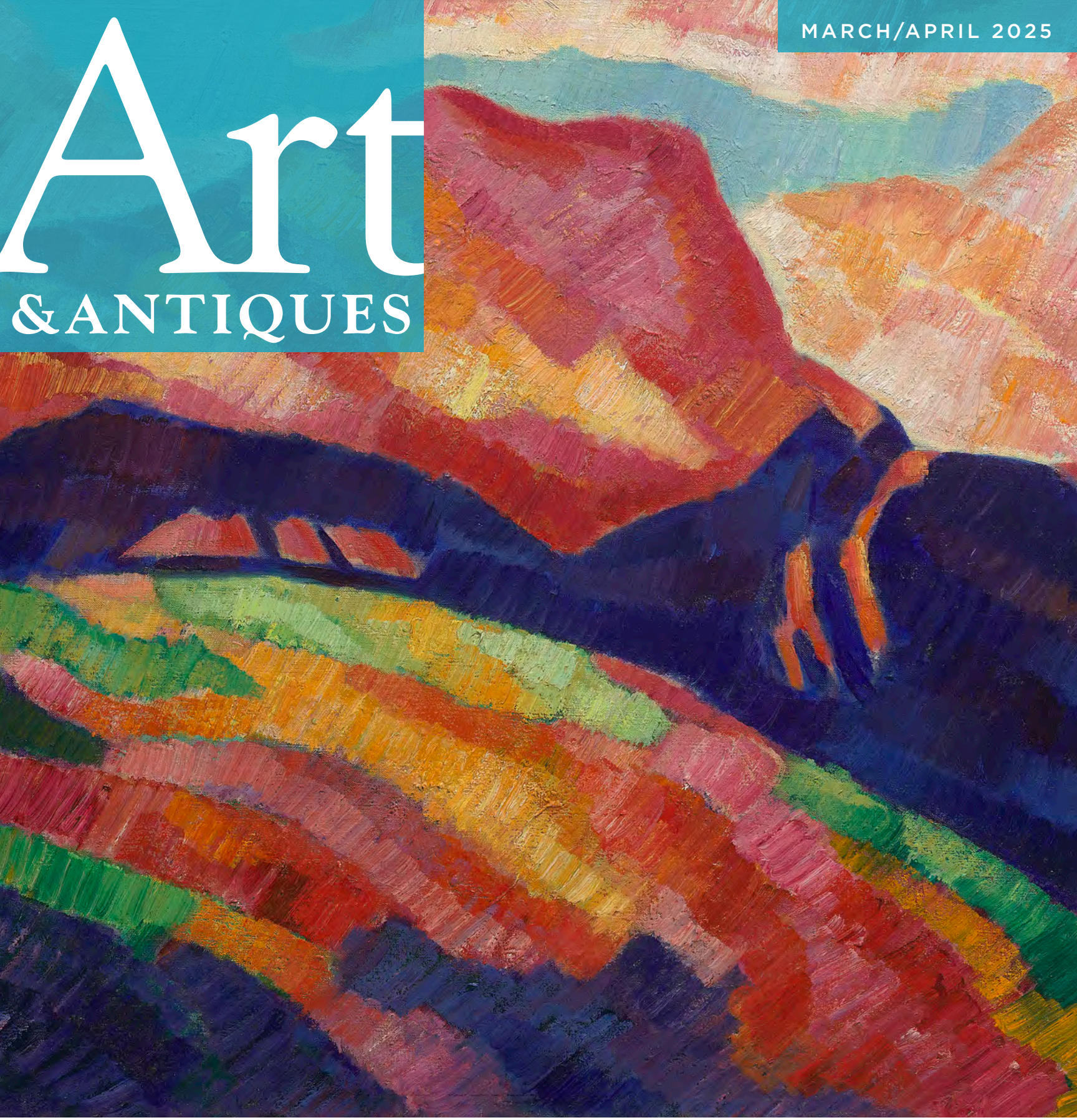
MARCH/APRIL 2025

Art &ANTIQUES



Marsden Hartley

JOHN SINGER SARGENT AND PARIS

ANCIENT ROMAN SCULPTURE IN CHICAGO

AN AI ROBOT PAINTS A PORTRAIT

THE POETIC CANVASES OF GRACE HARTIGAN

PHOTOPAINTING IN THE ART OF KUNIÉ SUGIURA

Lighting the Way

If ever there was a rarefied tabletop object of desire that glowed, sparkled, and enchanted—all while providing soft lighting under an umbrella-inspired dome composed of jewel-like pieces of leaded glass—it is the "Wisteria" lamp by Tiffany Studios New York.

The exquisite yet functional *objet d'art*, which was made in the first years of the 20th century in New York City by the namesake studio operated by Louis Comfort Tiffany (son of Charles Tiffany, founder of Tiffany & Company, the internationally known jewelry establishment), is regarded as one of the most sought-after light fixtures ever created by Tiffany. Its desirabililty is due in large part to the degree to which the lamp's production was a labor-intensive process. With glass-and-lead wisteria blossoms, in addition to beautifully entangled verdant leaves, cascading from the crown to the very edges of the shade, the "Wisteria" lamp has a trunk-and-vines base made of bronze.

A native of New York City, Tiffany brought his distinct talent as a painter and interior designer, as well as leading proponent of the decorative arts, to bear on the kaleidoscopic treatment of his work with glass. As a master of the intricate piecing together of colored shapes for his leaded-glass marvels, Tiffany was also adept at designing non-leaded-glass objects; his Favrile glass treasures, for example, include vases, jewelry, mosaics, and lamps that signify the pinnacle of Art Nouveau creativity.

According to Ben Macklowe, President and Owner of New York's Macklowe Gallery, where the lamp pictured here is available for purchase, "Tiffany's 'Wisteria,' offered between approximately 1903 and 1910, required more than 2,000 individual pieces of hand-cut and hand-selected glass to be meticulously arranged for each lamp. Hence, it is considered one of the most significant artistic achievements by Tiffany Studios."

By Roger Harris



PHOTO COURTESY OF MACKLOWE GALLERY, NEW YORK CITY