LOETZ SHELL VASE CANDIA PAPILLON CA. 1897

Shell vase, Johann Loetz Witwe, decor Candia Papillon, ca. 1897

Around 1900, shells became a prominent motif in the production of Johann Loetz Witwe glassworks, with the theme often explored through variations in both form and decoration. This particular piece is the largest version of the design. Blown glass was expertly shaped, with the opening cut and freely molded. The base, crafted from colorless glass, was added and shaped using tongs, while five three-part branches, sculpted to resemble coral, complete the composition. The vase bears the "Candia Papillon" decor, which is created by rolling silver-yellow flakes (Krösel) into whitish opal glass. The resulting coloration and the final iridescence evoke a shimmering luster of mother-of-pearl. Much like genuing mother-of-pearl, the vase shimmers with a range of colors when moved in the light, making it an impressive example of the exceptional technical skill of the Loetz glassworks.

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