LOETZ VASE PG 1/4 CA. 1901

Large vase with droplets, Johann Loetz Witwe,
decor Phenomen Genre 1/4, ca. 1901

The glassworks of Johann Loetz Witwe in Klostermühle were constantly experimenting with innovative forms and decorative techniques. In 1900–1901, the manufactory introduced its first vases featuring applied glass droplets. In developing this distinctive design element, the designers working under Max Ritter von Spaun, owner of the glassworks, appear to have drawn inspiration from the work of Tiffany. At Loetz, however, these technically demanding applications were given a more prominent role and were further refined through the addition of pulled, iridescent threads.

On the present vase, an impressive nearly 50 cm in height, four applied droplets accentuate the gentle, flowing contours of the body, which is articulated by four pronounced indentations.

The droplets themselves are decorated with silver-yellow striations, echoing the vase’s combed decor, composed of silver-yellow threads applied over colorless glass with an opal-pink underlayer. This interplay of applied ornament and the softly undulating form creates a particularly harmonious visual effect.

This decor variant is among the rarer versions produced by Loetz over the course of its history and is highly regarded by collectors. The exceptional example is further distinguished by the signature “Loetz Austria”, engraved into the polished pontil mark.

Kunsthandel Nikolaus Kolhammer GmbH
Agnesstraße 50, 3400 Klosterneuburg
Österreich, Europa

+43 676 406 46 00
info@kolhammer.com

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