

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES

VIENNA ART & DESIGN

ngv
150
YEARS

EDUCATION RESOURCE

Exhibition dates:
18 June – 9 October 2011
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Glossary

Arts and Crafts Movement:

The Arts and Crafts Movement was an international design movement that started in England and was at its height between 1880 and 1910. It began as a reaction against mass production in the decorative arts and the loss of quality and craftsmanship. It aimed to revive traditional skills and make good design accessible to a broad audience.

Art Nouveau:

French for 'new art'. An international style of art, architecture and decorative arts that arose at the end of the 19th century in reaction to academic art. It was characterised by flowing organic forms, curved lines and plant motifs and emphasised a synthesis between all art forms, making art a part of everyday life.

Austro-Hungarian Empire:

The result of a union between the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary which lasted from 1816–1918, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was the second largest country in Europe with the third largest population. It encompassed thirteen languages and a number of religions.

Bauhaus:

A school of art, design and architecture founded in Germany in 1919, characterised by simplified, functional, geometric design and attention to materials.

Bourgeoisie:

The prosperous middle classes

Classicism:

A form of art derived from the study of the art of architecture of ancient Greece and Rome, characterised by fine forms and balanced compositions.

Design Elements:

point, line, shape, form, tone, texture, colour, letterform

Design Principles:

Figure, ground, balance, contrast, cropping, hierarchy, scale, proportion, pattern

en plein air:

In the open air. While artists have painted outdoors throughout history, the popularity of plein air painting increased with the invention of metal tubes for paints (which made them easier to transport) and portable easels. The Impressionist artists of the late 19th Century, interested in capturing changing atmospheric conditions, frequently painted en plein air.

Expressionism:

A style of art which used the distortion of objective realities to represent emotional states.

Frieze:

A decorative horizontal band usually set high on a wall.

Gesamtkunstwerk:

The 'total artwork', which aspired to synthesise all of the art forms from architecture to decorative arts.

Historicism:

Artistic styles which draw on the styles of the past

Impressionism:

An art movement in which artists aimed to render scenes as they appear, capturing atmospheric effects and the play of light on the surface of objects.

Jugendstil:

Literally 'youth style', this was the name given to the embodiment of Art Nouveau in Vienna and the rest of the German speaking world.

Modernism:

A movement in Western art, architecture and design that advocated developing forms that were appropriate to the new age, rather than building on the art of the past. Modernist art encompassed a variety of movements or styles including Expressionism and Abstraction.

Naturalism:

A style in visual art that aimed to portray an accurate likeness of reality.

Realism:

A movement in art that aimed to show the reality of life, rather than romanticised or idealised views.

Secession:

This was the name given to the group of artists, architects and designers that broke away from the main establishment of Viennese artists in 1897 to form their own group.

Symbolism:

An art movement that aimed to represent abstract ideas, moods or emotions through the use of symbolic images

Wiener Werkstätte:

The Vienna Workshop was established by members of the Viennese Secession and Vienna's College of Applied Arts. From 1903-1932 the Wiener Werkstätte designed and manufactured furniture, textiles, jewellery and home wares for clients seeking quality design and craftsmanship.

Resources and Links

Design Museum London:

<http://designmuseum.org/education/teaching-resources>

Belvedere Museum, Vienna:

<http://www.belvedere.at/jart/prj3/belvedere/main.jart?rel=en>

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