

THE
ARTS & CRAFTS
MOVEMENT

ENGLAND

The Arts and Crafts design movement started in England in the 1880s, though it eventually spread to other parts of the world. The movement flourished through the turn of the century before fading out into the modernity of the machine age. The Arts and Crafts movement was centered around ornate craftsmanship, taking inspiration from nature, and simplicity of form/materials.

William Morris was known as the founder of the Arts and Crafts movement. He built the movement on philosophy coined by John Ruskin. Ruskin was the philosopher who disapproved of the separation of art and society and believed the beautiful things were valuable. He had an affinity for gothic and medieval design forms. Architect and designer A.W.N Pugin also had a large impact on the movement and he shared in Ruskin's love of gothic architecture.

A ceramic plate designed by William de Morgan, a friend of William Morris and owner of his own workshop that made ceramics and tiles

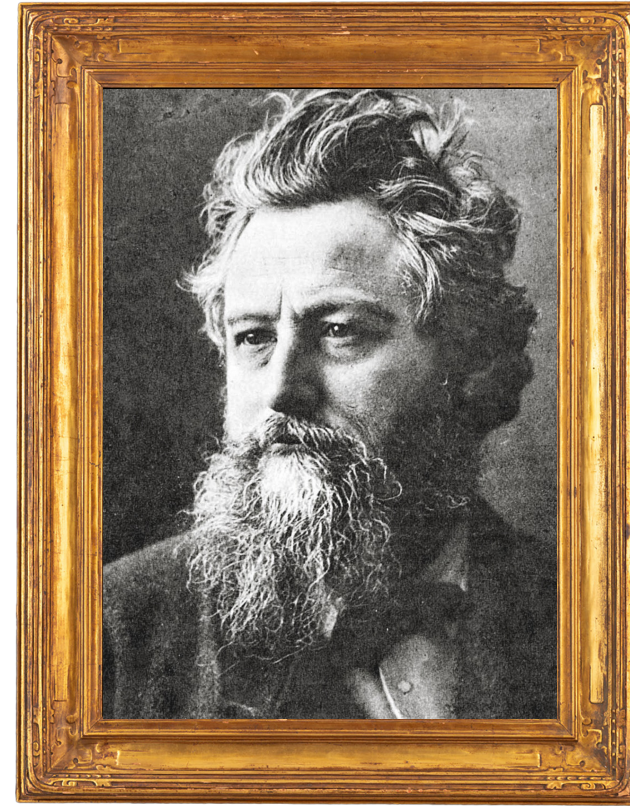


A foldable, embroidered screen designed by John Henry Dearle

Manufactured by Morris & Co in London sometime between 1885-1910

A light fixture designed by William Arthur Smith Benson, a founding member of the Art Workers' Guild

Crafted by W.A.S. Benson and Co. around 1902



WILLIAM MORRIS

William Morris (1834-1896) headed the Arts and Crafts movement in England after opening his design firm in 1861. Morris's motivation behind the movement was in retaliation to the industrial revolution as he believed that industrialization alienated labor and dehumanized designers. Morris's philosophy emphasized nature, simplicity of form, truth to materials and method of production, and the individual expression of the designer, all of which became pillars of the movement.

Furnishing Fabric designed by Sidney Mawson, inspired by the design of William Morris



PILLARS OF THE MOVEMENT

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PURITY OF MATERIALS

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CRAFTSMANSHIP

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INSPIRATION FROM NATURE

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AMERICA

Though it started in England, the United States was quickly influenced by the movement and William Morris's work. Much of this British philosophy was disseminated through the U.S. by journals, newspapers, societies, and lectures. Boston and Chicago were the first cities to establish Arts and Crafts societies while Minneapolis and New York City also emerged as epicenters for the movement.

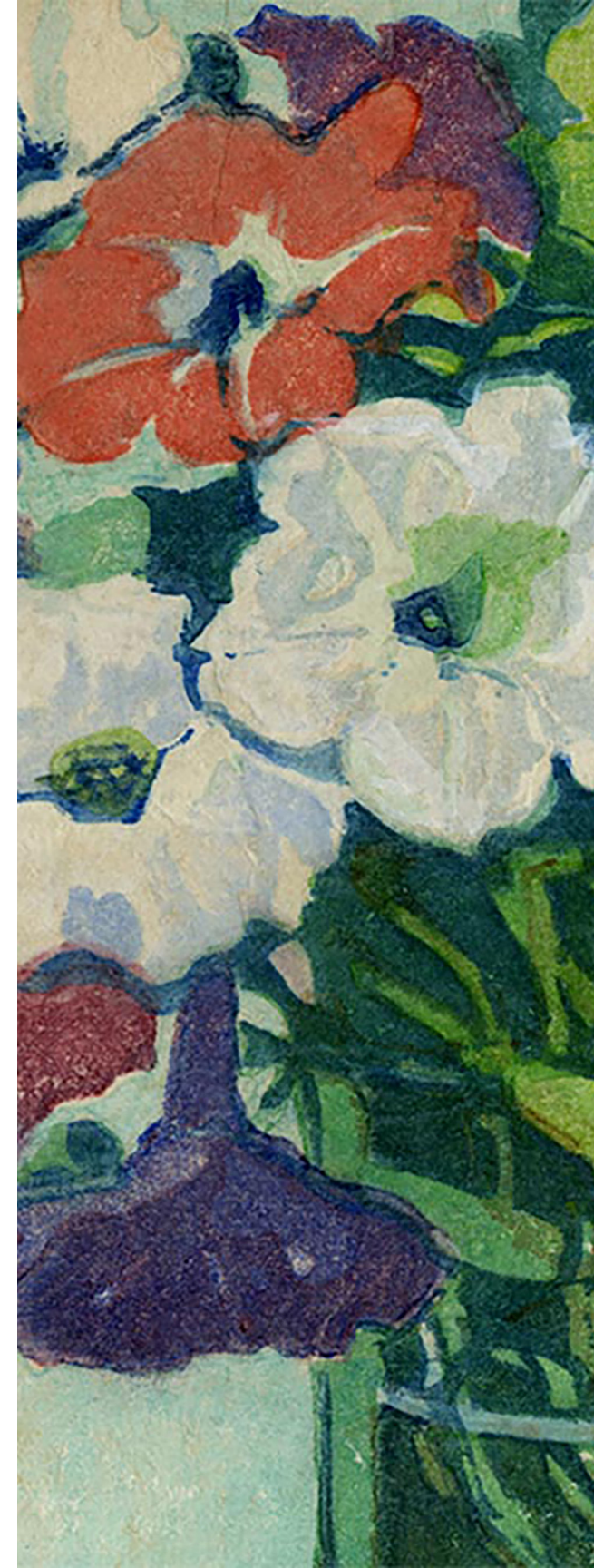
In addition to the Arts and Crafts societies that formed, there were also a few Utopian communities that popped up around the northeast. The most notable of these were Rose Valley and the Byrdcliffe Arts and Crafts Colony. The Rose Valley Association was founded by William Lightfoot Price in 1901 near Moylan, PA. They were committed to producing artistic handicraft and experimenting with their designs in a single tax community. Byrdcliffe was established in 1903 just outside of Woodstock, NY by Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead and his wife Jane Byrd McCall Whitehead. The Whiteheads founded the community where all the arts could come together. Artists in Byrdcliffe specialized in painting, sculpture, music, metalwork, furniture making and more.



An oak linen press crafted by the Byrdcliffe Arts and Crafts Colony in 1904

The sassafras leaves on the doors were designed Edna M. Walker

Petunias, a color woodblock print by Margaret Jordan Patterson



TYPOGRAPHY

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