

Arts & Crafts

Art & Design

The revolt against industrial production, and the contradiction inside it.

A British movement from about 1860 to 1910, led by William Morris after Ruskin, arguing that machine production degraded both the object made and the person making it.

PERIOD

about 1860 to 1910

CENTRAL FIGURE

William Morris

- Against: shoddy mass production and its labour.
- Truth to materials, visible construction, craft skill.
- Morris and Co. 1861; Kelmscott Press 1891.
- Ruskin's The Nature of Gothic was the founding text.
- Handwork made the goods expensive and elite.
- Fed into Art Nouveau, and then into the Bauhaus.

LOOK FOR IT

Morris: have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful.

The contradiction was never resolved. Goods made without machines could only be bought by the class Morris argued against.