

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR FALL 2022

THE DECORATIVE ARTS OF VIENNA 1900-1914

Coordinator: Carol Millsom

In Vienna the early years of the 20th Century ushered in a golden age in the visual arts. In collaboration with artists like Gustav Klimt, the architects Josef Hoffmann, Kolomon Moser and Adolf Loos created “total works of art”– living spaces in which every detail was important for overall effect. Working with skilled craftspeople, they designed the building and the tableware, the wall hangings and the dresses. We will look at some of these beautiful objects and their settings, then visit the Neue Galerie.

Carol Millsom has coordinated a number of study groups relating to the visual arts. After retiring, she earned a M.A. degree in the History of Design.

Type of Study Group: Presentation/discussion

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

Materials will be provided by the coordinator at no cost.

***** SYLLABUS - A WORK IN PROGRESS *****

WEEK 1

TOPIC: Vienna 1900

The Wiener Werkstatte; forerunners in England and Scotland; influences from Japan

READING:

Introduction, *Art in Vienna 1898-1918*, pp. 6-21;

"The Wiener Werkstatte",

<https://www.theartstory.org/movement/wiener-werkstatte/>

QUESTIONS:

What factors led to new art forms being developed in Vienna? What accounts for the influence of Japanese design on the new art in Vienna? In what ways did Mackintosh's work in Glasgow influence early designs for the Wiener Werkstatte?

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WEEK 2

TOPIC: Gesamtkunstwerk Total Works of Art

Purkersdorf Sanatorium 1904-1906; Palais Stoclet 1905-1911; Cabaret Fledermaus 1907

READING:

Purkersdorf Sanatorium, Cabaret Fledermaus, in *Wiener Werkstatte* by Gabriele Fahr-Becker, pp. 20-36, 64-67;

"The Palais Stoclet Seduces" by Aaron Betsky, *Architect*, October 4, 2013

https://www.architectmagazine.com/design/the-palais-stoclet-seduces_o

QUESTIONS:

We have discussed a sanatorium, a palatial home for a wealthy family, and a cabaret. What design principles are common to all three? How could these principles be applied to middle class homes? Could these designs be mass produced?

WEEK 3

TOPIC: Interiors of urban villas and apartments

Villa Ast 1909-1911; Villa Skywas-Primavesi 1913-1914; Wittgenstein Family Apartments 1902-1913

VIEWING/READING:

"Josef Hoffman and the Wiener Werkstatte"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He94o57J4CA> (42 minutes);

"Art Itself: The Private Lives of Josef Hoffmann", *Josef Hoffmann: Interiors 1902-1913*, pp. 74-97.

QUESTIONS:

In what ways are Hoffmann's designs suited to the practical aspects of everyday living? How did Hoffmann's ideas change from 1903 to 1913? Are the Wittgenstein apartments suitable for 21st century living? What changes, if any, would you make?

WEEK 4

TOPIC: Decorative Arts

Furniture, glass, ceramics, metalwork

WEEK 5

TOPIC: Decorative Arts

Jewelry, fashion, accessories, small art objects, graphic design

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WEEK 6: Visit to Neue Galerie