

William Morris
30.06.–06.10.2019

**Alræði
fegurðar!**
Let Beauty
Rule!

William Morris 1834–1896

William Morris (1834–1896) fæddist inn í velmegandi millistéttar fjölskyldu í Walthamstow í London. Á þessum tíma var þar blómleg sveit og áhugi hins unga Williams Morris beindist jafnt að dýrum og náttúrunni og lestri. Hann var sendur í guðfræðinám til Oxford þar sem hann kynntist upprendandi listamanni að nafni Edward Burne-Jones, en þeir félagar deildu áhuga á listum og arkitektúr. William Morris hætti háskólanámi til að gerast arkitekt og hóf starfsnám hjá arkitektastofu í London. Lærimeistari hans var Philip Webb sem varð náinn vinur hans til æviloka. Eftir nokkra mánuði breytti William Morris aftur um stefnu og ákvað að gerast listamaður. Hann hafði kynnst listamönnum í forrafaelíthópnum en þeir voru jafnákafir aðdáendur miðalda og þeir Morris og Burne-Jones. William Morris varð ekki listamaður en fann þess í stað köllun í hönnun og handverki auk þess sem hann beindi líka kröftum sínum að ritstörfum.

Fólkið sem William Morris kynntist á ungaaldrin myndaði kjarnahóp skapandi einstaklinga sem hafði það að markmiði að umbreyta breskri list, arkitektúr og handverki. Nokkrir þeirra stofnuðu og gerðust meðeigendur í fyrirtækinu Morris, Marshall, Faulkner and Co. Tengslanetið sem þeir mynduðu varð grunnurinn að handíðahreyfingunni – *British Arts & Crafts Movement*.

1834

– William Morris fæddist 24. mars inn í velmegandi millistéttar fjölskyldu í Elm House, Walthamstow í Englandi Viktoríu-tímans (1837–1901).

1847

– Faðir hans, William Morris eldri, deyri 50 ára að aldri.

1848

– Morris-fjölskyldan flytur í Water House, Walthamstow, sem hýsir William Morris Gallery í dag.
– William Morris, hefur nám við Marlborough College þrettán ára gamall.
– Bræðralag forrafaelíta er stofnað af Dante Gabriel Rossetti, John Everett Millais og William Holman Hunt. Bræðralagið var hópur breskra listamanna sem sótti innblástur í list frá tímum fyrir endurreisnarmálarann Rafael (1483–1520).

1851

– William Morris hættir í Marlborough College.

1853

– William Morris hefur guðfræðinám við Exeter College í Oxford þar sem hann stofnar til ævilangrar vináttu við Edward Burne-Jones (1833–1898). Þeir deila áhuga á list og arkitektúr miðalda, sérstaklega trúleggar listar og arkitektúrs.
– William Morris kemst í kynni við skrif Johns Ruskin, sem hafa gríðarleg áhrif á hann.

1854

– William Morris ferðast til Belgíu og Norður-Frakklands. Í Belgíu kynnist hann listaverkum Jans van Eyck og Hans Memling. Í Norður-Frakklandi skoðar hann aðallega gotneskar kirkjur.

1855

– Ferðast til Frakklands, í þetta sinn með Edward Burne-Jones og William Fulford.
– William Morris skrifar móður sinni um að hann ætli sér að verða arkitekt. Hann hættir í guðfræðináminu og gerist þess í stað lærlingur hjá nýgotneska arkitektinum G.E. Street. Lærimeistari hans er Philip Webb sem verður vinur hans allt til dauðadags.

1856

– William Morris birtir og fjármagnar fyrstu útgáfu af tímaritinu *The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine*. Tímaritið er m.a. gefið út af William Morris og Edward Burne-Jones og inniheldur greinar, sögur, gagnrýni og ljóð.
– William Morris og Edward Burne-Jones leigja herbergi við 17 Red Lion Square í London. Þetta var óinnréttuð íbúð sem hafði áður hýst meðlimi Bræðralags forrafaelíta. Morris og Burne-Jones hanna húsgögn fyrir húsnæðið.
– Hvattur áfram af Rossetti, hverfur William Morris frá því að verða arkitekt og fer að mála.

1857

- William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti og Edward Burne-Jones leigja vistarverur við 87 High Street, Oxford, gegnt Queen's College. Undir handleiðslu Rossettis skreyta þeir málfundaherbergi Oxford Union með veggmyndum.
- William Morris kynnist tilvonandi konu sinni, Jane Burden (1839–1914).

1858

- Fyrsta ljóðasafn Williams Morris, *The Defence of Guenevere & Other Poems*, kemur út. Hann birtir um 40 bókmenntaverk yfir ævina, þar á meðal ljóðasöfn, skáldsögur, stefnuyfirlýsingar og almenna texta. Hann er vel þekktur rithöfundur og ljóðskáld í Englandi.

1859

- William Morris og Jane Burden gefin saman þann 26. apríl í St. Michael í North Gate Church, Ship Street, Oxford.

1860

- William og Jane Morris flytja í Red House í Kent. William Morris greiðir fyrir húsið og fær vin sinn arkitektinn Philip Webb til að hanna húsið. Morris ætlaði að búa í Red House með Burne-Jones-fjölskyldunni í svokallaðri „Höll listarinnar“.

1861

- Dóttir Williams og Jane, Jane Alice (Jenny) Morris fæðist og er nefnd í höfuðið á yngri systur Williams.
- William Morris, P.P. Marshall, Charles Faulkner, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones, Ford Madox Brown og Philip Webb stofna skrautlistarfyrirtækið Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co (1861–1875), sem einnig gekk undir nafninu The Firm.
- Stór hluti stofnfésins var lán frá móður Williams, Emmu Morris. Fyrirtækið framleiddi og seldi handgerða skrautmuni og húsgögn fyrir heimili, svo sem steintögl, tréskurð, veggfóður, vefnað og teppi innblásin af fagurfræði síðmiðalda. Kirkjur og söfn leituðu einnig eftir starfskröftum fyrirtækisins.

1862

- Mary (May) Morris fæðist.
- William Morris fer að hanna veggfóður.
- Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co sýna á Heimssýningunni í London og vinna til tveggja gullverðlauna.

1864

- Fyrstu veggfóðrin, *Trellis* og *Daisy*, eru framleidd og prentuð hjá Jeffery & Co. Þau eru dýr í framleiðslu þar sem að bæði mynstrin eru með 12 litum og þurfa því 12 plötur (eina fyrir hvern lit)
- Horfið frá hugmyndinni um að deila Red House með Burne-Jones-fjölskyldunni.

1865

- Red House selt.
- Morris-fjölskyldan flytur að 26 Queen Square í London og fyrirtækið opnar verslun á sama stað.

1867

- Fyrirtækið er fengið til að innrétta borðstofu í South Kensington safninu, síðar nefnt Victoria and Albert Museum sem er opið almenningi í dag.

1868

- William Morris lærir íslensku hjá Eiríki Magnússyni, fræðimanni og bókaverði í Cambridge.

1870

- Þýðir (í samvinnu við Eirík Magnússon) og birtir Völsungasögu á ensku.

1871

- Ferðast til Íslands með Eiríki Magnússyni, Charles Faulkner og W. H. Evans.

1873

- Ferðast aftur til Íslands, að þessu sinni með Edward Burne-Jones.

1875

- William Morris tekur fulla stjórn á fyrirtækinu Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co og breytir nafninu í Morris & Co.

1876

- Dóttir hans Jenny fær flogakast og er öryrki uppfrá því.

1877

- Morris & Co opna verslun og sýningarsal í miðborg London.
- William Morris stofnar Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, forvera National Trust. Morris fannst að heilu byggingarnar ættu að teljast til menningarminja. Seinni tíma viðbætur ætti því að fjarlægja til þess að færa byggingarnar í sitt upprunalega horf.

1878

- Morris-fjölskyldan flytur í Kelmscott House í Hammersmith sem hýsir The William Morris Society í dag.
- William Morris vefur veggteppi.

1879

- Mótmælir með Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings hvernig staðið er að því að gera upp Markúsarkirkjuna í Feneyjum.

1881

- William Morris eignast Merton Abbey í Spitalfields, þar sem áður var textílverksmiðja. Byggingarnar eru aðlagðar til að framleiða vörur fyrir Morris & Co.

1883

- William Morris gengur til liðs við The Social Democratic Federation.

1884

- William Morris og fleiri segja sig úr The Social Democratic Federation.

1885

- William Morris og aðrir fyrrum meðlimir The Social Democratic Federation stofna The Socialist League. Sama ár er William Morris handtekinn á kröfufundi fyrir málfrelsi en hann er látinn laus næsta dag.

1888

- Fyrsta sýning myndlistar- og handíða-hreyfingarinnar skipulögð, William Morris heldur fyrirlestur um listvefnað.

1890

- William Morris skrifa sósíalísku skáldsöguna *News from Nowhere*.
- Segir sig úr The Socialist League og stofnar The Hammersmith Socialist Society.

1891

- William Morris stofnar forlagið Kelmscott Press.
- Býr til leturgerðirnar *Golden, Troy* og *Chaucer*.

1894

- Móðir Williams Morris, Emma Morris, deyr 90 ára að aldri.

1896

- William Morris deyr 3. október, 62 ára að aldri

William Morris lést árið 1896, 62 ára að aldri. Sjúkdómsgreining læknisins var svo hljóðandi: „... mein hans var einfaldlega að vera William Morris...“

Að Morris látnum tók William Benson, vinur þeirra Morris og Burne-Jones, við rekstri Morris & Co. Burne-Jones lést tveimur árum síðar, árið 1898, þá 65 ára að aldri. Listræn stjórnun færðist þá á hendur Johns Henry Dearle, sem hafði byrjað sem lærlingur og aðstoðarmaður Williams Morris á unglingsárum. Dearle þróaði fyrirtækið áfram og hafði umsjón með framleiðslunni allt til dauðadags árið 1932 en þá hafði hann unnið fyrir fyrirtækið í 54 ár. May Morris fetaði í fótspor föður síns og helgaði sig fyrirtækinu þangað til hún lést árið 1938.

Morris & Co breyttist eftir dauða Williams Morris. Fyrirtækið var selt árið 1905 og nafni þess breytt í Morris & Co Decorators Ltd. Nýja stjórnin hafði enga listræna sérþekkingu en þekking og reynsla Dearles af því að vinna með William Morris tryggði orðstír fyrirtækisins. Eftir dauða Johns Henry Dearle árið 1932 tók að halla undan fæti og árið 1940 var Morris & Co leyst upp og hönnunarskrárnar og það sem eftir var af veggfóðri á lager var selt til Sanderson. Morris & Co hefur verið í eigu Sanderson-fjölskyldunnar allar götur síðan og er nú hluti af The Style Library.

Eftir seinni heimsstyrjöld, og allt frá 1930 víða í Evrópu, varð fúnksjónalisminn ráðandi stefna og myndstur Morris & Co féllu úr tísku. Þetta breyttist á sjöunda og áttunda áratug síðustu aldar þegar litrík myndstur komust aftur í tísku. Sum gömlu Morris & Co myndsturnir voru uppfærð í anda samtímans í nánast skynörvandi litapalletum. Til að mynda átti George Harrison, gítarleikari Bítlanna, jakka með Golden Lily myndstρινu sem hannað var af Dearle árið 1899.

Á níunda áratug síðustu aldar tók Sanderson á ný upp heitið Morris & Co, merki um að fyrirtækið væri að snúa aftur í upprunann. Fyrirtækið starfar áfram í anda Williams Morris og framleiðir vörur sem eru eins líkar upprunalegu útgáfunum og hægt er.

William Morris 1834–1896

William Morris (1834–1896) was born into a wealthy middle-class family in Walthamstow in London. At the time, the area was idyllically rural and William Morris was as interested in animals and nature as in reading. He was sent to Oxford to study theology and here he befriended the future artist Edward Burne-Jones, with whom he shared an interest in art and architecture. William Morris abandoned his university studies in order to pursue a career as an architect and began an apprenticeship at an architectural office in London. His mentor was Philip Webb who became a close, life-long friend. After some months William Morris once again changed his plans, this time to become an artist. He had learned to know the artists of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, who shared Edward Burne-Jones's and his love of medieval art. He did not become an artist. Instead he found his calling in design and craft.

The people William Morris learned to know in his adolescence formed a creative collective with the common goal of transforming British art, architecture and craft. Eventually they became partners in the company Morris, Marshall, Faulkner and Co. The network they created was the foundation of the British Arts & Crafts Movement.

1834

- William Morris is born on 24 March to a wealthy middle-class family at Elm House, Walthamstow in Victorian England (1837–1901).

1847

- His father, William Morris Senior dies aged 50.

1848

- The Morris family moves to Water House, Walthamstow which today is the home of the William Morris Gallery.
- William Morris, aged 13, begins his studies at Marlborough College.
- The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood is founded by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, John Everett Millais and William Holman Hunt. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was a British group of artists who sought inspiration from art from the period preceding the Renaissance artist Raphael (1483–1520).

1851

- William Morris leaves Marlborough College.

1853

- William Morris begins to study theology at Exeter College, Oxford where he forms a lifelong friendship with Edward Burne-Jones (1833–1898). They share a common interest in medieval art and architecture, especially religious art and architecture.
- William Morris begins reading John Ruskin, which influences him greatly.

1854

- William Morris travels to Belgium and northern France. In Belgium he sees artworks by Jan van Eyck and Hans Memling. In northern France he primarily visits Gothic cathedrals.

1855

- Travels to France, this time with Edward Burne-Jones and William Fulford.
- William Morris writes to his mother that he intends to become an architect. He abandons his ongoing theology studies and instead is apprenticed to the Neo-Gothic architect G. E. Street. His mentor is Philip Webb who becomes a close, life-long friend.

1856

- William Morris publishes and finances the first edition of the periodical magazine *The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine*. Published by, among others, William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, the magazine comprises articles, stories, reviews and poems.
- William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones take rooms at 17 Red Lion Square in London, an unfurnished apartment that had previously been occupied by members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Morris and Burne-Jones designed the furniture for their lodgings.
- Encouraged by Rossetti, William Morris abandons his plans to become an architect and begins to paint.

1857

- William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Edward Burne-Jones take rooms at 87 High Street, Oxford, opposite Queen's College. Under Rossetti's guidance they decorate the debating chamber of Oxford Union with murals.
- William Morris meets his future wife, Jane Burden (1839–1914).

1858

- William Morris' first collection of poems, *The Defence of Guenevere & Other Poems*, is published. During his lifetime he publishes some 30 literary works, including collections of poems, novels, manifestos and non-fiction. In England he is a well-known writer and poet.

1859

- William Morris and Jane Burden marry on 26 April at St. Michael at the North Gate Church, Ship Street, Oxford.

1860

- William and Jane Morris move to the Red House in Kent. Paid for by William Morris, the house is designed by his friend, architect Philip Webb. Morris planned to live in the Red House with the Burne-Jones family in a so-called "Palace of Art".

1861

- William and Jane's daughter Jane Alice (Jenny) Morris is born and named after William Morris' younger sister.
- Finds together with P. P. Marshall, Charles Faulkner, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones, Ford Madox Brown and Philip Webb the decorative arts company Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co (1861–1875) also known as the Firm.
- A considerable share of the company's capital was loaned by William Morris' mother Emma Morris. The company manufactured and sold handmade decorations and furniture for the home, such as stained glass, wood carvings, wallpaper, fabrics and carpets, with a medieval-inspired aesthetic. They also received commissions from churches and museums.

1862

- Mary (May) Morris is born.
- William Morris begins designing wallpaper.
- Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co exhibit at the International Exhibition in London and are awarded two gold medals.

1864

- The first wallpapers, *Trellis* and *Daisy*, are produced and printed by Jeffery & Co. They were expensive to produce as both designs comprise 12 colours, requiring 12 blocks (one for each colour used).
- Plans to share the Red House with the Burne-Jones family are cancelled.

1865

- The Red House is sold.
- The Morris family moves to 26 Queen Square in London and the Firm opens a shop at the same address.

1867

- The Firm is commissioned to decorate a dining room at the South Kensington Museum, now known as the Victoria and Albert Museum, and is still today available for the public.

1868

- William Morris studies Icelandic under Eiríkur Magnússon.

1870

- Translates (with the help of Eiríkur Magnússon) and publishes the *Volsunga Saga*.

1871

- Travels to Iceland with Eiríkur Magnússon, Charles Faulkner and W. H. Evans.

1873

- Travels again to Iceland, this time with Edward Burne-Jones.

1875

- William Morris assumes total control of the company Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co, which is renamed Morris & Co.

1876

- His daughter Jenny suffers an epileptic seizure and is incapacitated for the rest of her life.

1877

- Morris & Co open a shop and showroom in central London.
- William Morris founds the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, a precursor to the National Trust. Morris believed that entire buildings should be treated as cultural heritage. Elements added throughout history should therefore be removed in order to "repair" the buildings to their original style.

1878

- The Morris family moves to Kelmscott House in Hammersmith, which today is the William Morris Society.
- William Morris weaves tapestries.

1879

- Protests via the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings against the restoration of St Mark's Basilica in Venice.

1881

- William Morris acquires an industrial estate, Merton Abbey in Spitalfields, a former textile factory. The buildings are adapted to produce goods for Morris & Co.

1883

- William Morris joins the Social Democratic Federation.

1884

- William Morris and other members leave the Social Democratic Federation.

1885

- William Morris and other defectors from the Social Democratic Federation found the Socialist League. While demonstrating the same year for freedom of speech William Morris is arrested and is released the next day.

1888

- The first Arts and Crafts exhibition is organised, William Morris lectures on tapestry weaving.

1890

- William Morris writes the socialist novel *News from Nowhere*.
- He leaves the Socialist League and founds the Hammersmith Socialist Society.

1891

- William Morris founds the publishing house the Kelmscott Press.
- He creates the fonts *Golden*, *Troy* and *Chaucer*.

1894

- William Morris' mother, Emma Morris, dies aged 90.

1896

- William Morris dies on 3 October, aged 62.

William Morris died in 1896. He was 62 years old. The doctor's diagnosis read: "his disease was simply being William Morris..."

William Benson, a friend of Morris and Burne-Jones's, took over the directorship of Morris & Co. Burne-Jones died two years later, in 1898, at the age of 65. The creative and artistic responsibility was then transferred to John Henry Dearle, who, as a teen, had started out as an apprentice and assistant to William Morris. Dearle developed the firm and oversaw the production and manufacturing until his death in 1932, by which time he had worked for the company for 54 years. Following in her father's footsteps, May Morris devoted her entire career to the firm, until her death in 1938.

The character of Morris & Co changed in the years after William Morris's death. In 1905, the firm was sold and changed its name to Morris & Co Decorators Ltd. The new board of directors had no artistic expertise. However, with his long personal and professional experience of working with William Morris, Dearle managed to maintain the reputation of the firm by promoting existing and developing new products. After John Henry Dearle's death in 1932, things took a turn for the worse. In 1940, Morris & Co was dissolved and the design archives and remaining wall-paper stock were purchased by Sanderson. Morris & Co has remained in the Sanderson family ever since and today forms part of the Style Library.

After the Second World War, and since the 1930s in many parts of Europe, the prevailing style was functionalism, which meant that Morris & Co's patterns fell out of favour. The 1960s and 1970s saw a revival of colourful patterns and Morris & Co was once again on trend. Some of the earlier patterns were given contemporary, almost psychedelic, colour schemes. Exemplified by Beatle guitarist George Harrison sporting a jacket with a Golden Lily pattern (designed by Dearle in 1899).

In the 1980s, Sanderson appointed a new CEO and the Morris & Co label was reinstated, signalling a return to its craft roots. The company continues to work in the spirit of William Morris, manufacturing products that are as true as possible to the original pieces.

William Morris
Alræði fegurðar!
Let Beauty Rule!

Sýningin er unnin í samstarfi við
William Morris Gallery í Lundúnum
og Millesgården í Stokkhólmi

The exhibition is created in collaboration with the William Morris Gallery in London and Millesgården in Stockholm

Lánendur Lenders

William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow
William Morris Society, Hammersmith
Style Library, Denham
Museums and Galleries, City of Bradford MDC
Svenskt Tenn, Stockholm
Landsbókasafn Íslands – Háskólabókasafn
National and University Library of Iceland

Skipulag Organizer

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Millesgården

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Axel Hallkell Jóhannesson

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Helga Soffía Einarsdóttir

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Einar Árnason

Aðrir sýningarstaðir Other exhibition venues

Millesgården, Stokkhólmi/Stockholm
15.09.2018–03.02.2019

Nivaagaards Malerisamling, Nivå

13.02.–16.06.2019

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