



# **"The Art That is Life": The Arts & Crafts Movements in America, 1875-1920**

*Wendy Kaplan*

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One of the most significant and far-reaching movements in American art, the Arts & Crafts movement transformed American attitudes toward design, the home, and the work process by emphasizing how to make objects and live with them. Decorative objects from the movement, an immensely popular era of American art, are much-sought-after collectibles.

This lavish, beautifully designed book, originally published in 1987 in conjunction with a landmark exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, is the first to have interpreted the Arts & Crafts movement in America. With eight essays by distinguished scholars and more than 300 illustrations, the book serves as the classic reference on American design reform and celebrates the decorative arts and architecture of this important era. The works included are decorative objects such as furniture, glass, silver, ceramics, textiles, wallpaper, books, and architectural drawings. Collectors and anyone interested in the Arts & Crafts movement will be thrilled to see this classic book available again.

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The Arts and Crafts movement sought to reunite what had been ripped asunder in the nature of human work, having the designer work with his hands at every step of creation. Some of the most famous apostles of the movement, such as Morris, were more than willing to design products for machine production, when this did not involve the wretched division of labor and loss of craft talent, which they denounced. "The Art that is Life," *The Arts & Crafts Movement in America, 1875-1920*. Bulfinch Press, 1998. ISBN 9780821225547. It changed American attitudes toward design and the home, and compelled people to think This paperback edition is a reissue of the classic book on the American Arts and Crafts movement, one of the most significant and far-reaching movements in American art. It is also one of the least understood. It transformed not only how objects looked but how people looked at objects. It changed American attitudes toward design and the home, and compelled people to think about the relationship of art to everyday life. The results can be seen in such diverse styles as Gothic, Oriental, Aesthetic, Colonial R Unformatted text preview: "The Art that is Life": *The Arts & Crafts Movement in America, 1875-1920* by Wendy Kaplan with contributions by Eileen Boris, W. Scott Braznell, Robert Judson Clark, Edward S. Cooke, Jr., Ellen Paul Denker, Bert Randall Denker, Robert Edwards, Jonathan L. Fairbanks, Sally Buchanan Kinsey, Gillian Moss, Cheryl Robertson, Susan Otis Thompson, Richard Guy Wilson, and Catherine Zusy Museum. America in 1900 Uneven and unequal development characterized the United States during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first years of the twentieth.

In 1897, Arts and Crafts Societies were founded in Rochester, NY and Chicago. That year also saw the first Arts and Crafts Exhibition, in Boston. As cities thrived, life on the farm gave way to life in the suburbs. The idea of home ownership became the American dream, and the Craftsman dream was to build these homes and furnish them with objects that reflected the rural country life that fewer and fewer people experienced. It would be naive to believe that all of the artisans, craftsmen and designers of this time were true A&C reformists. Although there are many ending dates for the Arts and Crafts Movement, ranging from 1916 to 1920 and even up to 1929, it is safe to say that the period had effectively ended by 1916, and its popularity had dramatically declined by 1919. The practitioners of Arts & Crafts movement produced handcrafted marvels as they were disenchanted with the impersonal, mechanized direction of society. The faith in the ability of art to reshape society exerted a powerful influence on its many successor movements in all branches of the arts. Key Ideas. The Arts & Crafts movement existed under its specific name in the United Kingdom and the United States, and these two strands are often distinguished from each other by their respective attitudes towards industrialization: in Britain, Arts & Crafts artists and designers tended to be either negative or ambivalent towards the role of the machine in the creative process, while Americans tended to embrace the.



Collectors and anyone interested in the Arts & Crafts movement will be thrilled to see this classic book available again. (more). all members. Members. Recently added by. rramponi, KCWGLibrary, kmfiske, JacquelynDewdney, raparin, Jerryc123, summeryj, galleryteam, beadmonger68. numbers. show all. Member reviews. Excellent book on the history of the arts and crafts movement in America. Many great photographs and historical information. ( ) illustrationfan | Feb 13, 2009 |. Published reviews. no reviews | add a review. Other authors. » Add other authors (1 possible). The Arts and Crafts movement sought to reunite what had been ripped asunder in the nature of human work, having the designer work with his hands at every step of creation. Some of the most famous apostles of the movement, such as Morris, were more than willing to design products for machine production, when this did not involve the wretched division of labor and loss of craft talent, which they denounced. "The Art that is Life," The Arts & Crafts Movement in America, 1875-1920. Bulfinch Press, 1998. ISBN 9780821225547.