

Press Release

A SHOT OF RHYTHM AND COLOR
English Textile Design of the Late 19th Century

Opening	Tuesday, 5 February 2013, 7 p.m.
Presentation Venue	MAK Textiles Study Collection MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Presentation Dates	6 February – 13 October 2013
Opening Hours	Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Free admission on Tuesdays 6–10 p.m.

With its presentation *A SHOT OF RHYTHM AND COLOR. English Textile Design of the Late 19th Century*, the MAK will be exhibiting a representative survey of textile design in England around 1900. The public at that time was quite taken by the generously dimensioned repeat patterns and motifs derived from flowers and plants that so strongly characterized these English fabric and wallpaper designs. This MAK exhibition will juxtapose such designs with works from other artistic disciplines, thus embedding them in a broader context.

Distributed across the entire MAK Collection are extensive holdings of late 19th-century English arts and crafts—be they furniture, glass and ceramics, metal, textiles or carpets. It was immediately upon being founded that the MAK began purchasing an assortment of then-contemporary textiles, and the museum is now home to around 900 examples of English textiles and carpets from the period around 1900. The many panels of English decorative fabrics, often meters long, were collected along with wallpaper sample books as models for industrial production in the Habsburg Empire and given their first public showing in 1899 along with Belgian, French and Italian textiles.

Beginning with the formal pioneer William Morris and continuing with some of the best-known enterprises and individuals such as Liberty & Co., Silver Studio and Charles F. A. Voysey (that generation's most successful English designer), this chronologically structured presentation in the MAK Textiles Study Collection sheds light upon the development of late 19th-century English textile production. The examples by William Morris and Walter Crane also testify to the political involvement of their designers, who originally intended that they communicate a social model.

The showing is rounded out by examples of sofa upholstery that demonstrate these fabrics' actual use in interior decorating.

England was the dominant 19th-century power in more than just the political sense. Its pioneering leadership in the development of industrial production methods is documented impressively by the Victoria and Albert Museum, founded in 1852. And the "Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society," a forward-looking artists' association founded in 1887, promoted the idea that design should feature simplified forms and be done in harmony with the materials used.

Affordable mass-produced textiles gradually became available to England's growing middle class as industrialization progressed, and the 19th century's second half saw such wares undergo continual stylistic development. The diverse, lavish, yet consistently two-dimensional patterns featured in English decorative fabrics and English designers' wallpaper sample books provided lasting inspiration to Viennese artists and craftspeople, some of whose works are shown in the new *Vienna 1900* presentation of the Permanent Collection.

The preparatory work for *A SHOT OF RHYTHM AND COLOR* was accompanied by digitization of the MAK's entire collection of English textiles and wallpaper. The resulting database will be accessible via www.sammlungen.MAK.at starting on 5 February.

Images relating to the exhibition are available for download at MAK.at/en/press.

Press Fact Sheet

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Curator	Barbara Karl, Curator, MAK Textiles and Carpets Collection
MAK Admission	€ 7.90 / reduced: € 5.50 / family ticket € 11 Free admission for children and teens up to 19
MAK Press and Public Relations	Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (head) Sandra Hell-Ghignone Veronika Träger Lara Steinhäuser T +43 1 711 36-233, 229, 212 presse@MAK.at www.MAK.at
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