

Art and Design in Vienna around 1900 (Online Course)

[Monika Schwärzler-Brodesser](#)/[Elana Shapira](#)

February 8 – 19, 2021

4 ECTS

Course Description

This course will deal with the cultural and intellectual achievements of a number of key protagonists from the fields of fine art, applied art, and architecture. It will draw a line from Historicism, the style prevailing in the second half of the 19th century, to Art Nouveau, the style of the young, and will provide an outlook on the Austrian type of Expressionism and modernism in architecture. This art historical examination will be contextualized within the broader spectrum of cultural and professional networks and the critical role of the mass media in promoting and shaping a modern image of the city of Vienna. One of the main aims of the course will be to create a multifaceted picture of what happened in this period of transformation of social and cultural patterns in Viennese society.

Special attention will be given to the gender codes informing the creations of the time.

The first course week focusing on art and visual culture will be conducted by Dr. Monika Schwärzler-Brodesser, the second week dealing with design and architecture by Dr. Elana Shapira.

Requirements and grading: Active **participation** either in the online course live or via comments and questions submitted to the instructors will constitute **20%** of the grade. A **summary of the class discussion** of one course unit of choice each **from the first and second week, including the student's own viewpoints** will constitute **30%** of the grade. **Two papers** on art and design (max. three pages, topics to be announced) will constitute **50%** of the grade.

Syllabus

1st week

Monika Schwärzler-Brodesser

Monday, February 8, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Highlights and iconic images of fin-de-siècle art

Tuesday, February 9, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Historicism: its stylistic features – the Vienna *Ringsstraße*;
Characterization of the class that expressed itself in Historicist style;
Hans Makart, his portraiture, history paintings, and interior design projects;

Wednesday, February 10, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Art Nouveau: the “new art” and “art of the young”;
The Secession movement in Vienna: its artistic program, motto, and its periodical; the financial backers;
Gustav Klimt as the head of the heretics; his faculty paintings and the scandal they caused;

Thursday, February 11, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Egon Schiele as a representative of Austrian Expressionism; his artistic response to the social and cultural conditions of pre-WW1 society;
Oskar Kokoschka and Richard Gerstl;

Friday, February 12, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Circumstances of female art production at the time: the role and status of female artists in society; their limited access to art education;
The notion of “femme fatale” as a cultural phenomenon of the turn of the century and its psychoanalytical implications;

2nd week

Elana Shapira

Monday, February 15, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Art in the city – Otto Wagner and the Viennese Secession;
“The Sacred Spring” in architecture and design;

Tuesday, February 16, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Josef Hoffmann and the Gesamtkunstwerk (concept of the total work of art);
The *Vienna Workshop*: its ideal of craftsmanship, its clients, and economic structure;

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Adolf Loos, Fashion, and Modern Architecture. Loos’s attack on the aestheticism of the Viennese society (“poor rich man” 1900, and “Ornament and Crime” c. 1911);

Thursday, February 18, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Coffee houses, cabarets and cultural networks – Literature and Design;

Friday, February 19, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Women’s Secession – women designers and architects;