

IN FOCUS

Edward Burne-Jones

28 AUGUST, 1833 – 17 JUNE, 1898

William Morris was a British painter and designer associated with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Burne-Jones worked with William Morris as a founding partner in Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co in the design of decorative arts. He worked with a variety of materials, but he is most famous for his stained glass windows.

WHO WAS EDWARD BURNE-JONES?

Edward Burne-Jones was born in 1833 in Birmingham to a middle-class family. He was educated at King Edward's School, New Street and Birmingham School of Art before attending Exeter College, Oxford, where he met William Morris. He studied theology, not only as he had wanted to become a priest, but also because he thought he lacked a thorough artistic education. However, he soon abandoned the idea of a life in the Church, and pursued art full-time.



WILLIAM MORRIS

After meeting at Oxford, Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris became fast friends. They remained close and collaborated for the rest of their lives. The pair both went to Oxford wanting to become priests, but soon realised that the art world was better suited to them. Burne-Jones introduced Morris to the rest of the Birmingham Set, and they referred to themselves as 'the Brotherhood'.

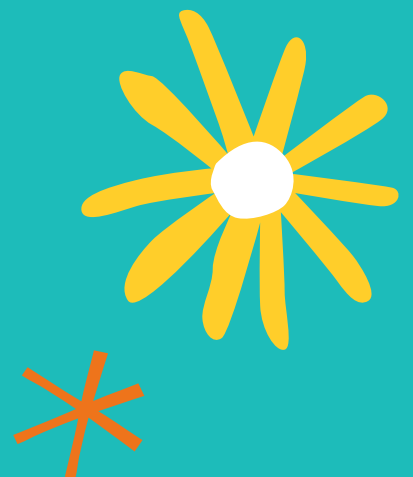
STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



In the late 19th Century, St Philip's Church commissioned a stained glass window depicting the ascension of Jesus into heaven. Edward Burne-Jones was chosen as the designer, and William Morris chose the colours for the window. Following its completion, Edward Burne-Jones was so inspired by its beauty that he decided to make three more, showing the Nativity, the resurrection and the Last Judgement. William Morris chose the colours for all of the windows, however both his and Burne-Jones died before seeing the completion of the final window.

A BIRMINGHAM ICON

Edward Burne-Jones was, and continues to be, a source of inspiration for many artists. His work can be seen all over the UK, as well as in the United States, Canada and Australia. The Last Judgement window, which is considered to be one of, if not his greatest work, is in his hometown, in the very church in which he was baptised.



SOURCES:

<https://birminghamcathedral.com/windows/>