

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Two presentations, one at the end of the first and one at the end of the second week, will each constitute 10% of the grade and two papers (minimum 4000-5000 characters), one on the content of the first and one on the content of the second week (topic to be announced), will each constitute 30% of the grade.

## Syllabus

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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 adopted Historicist style;  
Hans Makart as a 19th century “influencer” concerning matters of taste and life style; his portraiture and history paintings;  
Reading assignment: Doris H. Lehmann, *Portraying Viennese Beauty*, 2013;

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;  
Reading assignment: Eric R. Kandel, *Viennese Artists, Writers, and Scientists Meet In The Zuckerkandl Salon*, 2012;

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

Circumstances of female art production at the time;  
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;  
Reading assignment: Leslie Topp & Gemma Blackshaw, *Scrutinized Bodies and Lunatic Utopias: Mental illness, psychiatry and the visual arts in Vienna 1898-1914*, 2009;

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

Presentation and discussion of student projects;

**2<sup>nd</sup> week**

**Elana Shapira**

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

The New Metropolis - Rebellion against Historicism, Otto Wagner's railroad stations, city buildings and the Viennese Secession; Images of the *The Sacred Spring* and the cult of youth in architecture and design; The art critic Hermann Bahr, architect Joseph Maria Olbrich, and the Secession House;

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

Art Nouveau Aesthetics and the community of *Art Lovers* – Josef Hoffmann and the *Gesamtkunstwerk* (total work of art) from the artists' colony to Villa Ast; The *Wiener Werkstätte* (design company Viennese Workshop): patrons and designers;

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

Viennese Living Cultures and pluralistic modernism – Adolf Loos, gendered and gender-neutral fashion, and modern architecture from the interiors of men's fashion stores to the scandalous *Goldman & Salatsch* House; Debating modernism and moving beyond gendered fashion: From Adolf Loos's coffee house circle to Josef Frank's home interiors; Design and national identification: Josef Frank, Josef Hoffmann and the Austrian *Werkbund*;

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

A Women's Vienna – women art critics, architects and designers from the art critic Berta Zuckerkandl and her salon to the architect Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky and the Frankfurt Kitchen; Women's cultural networks: Reform educator Eugenie Schwarzwald and Adolf Loos, fashion designer Emilie Flöge and artist Gustav Klimt, and art historian Else Hofmann and architect Liane Zimmler;

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

Class presentations and roundtable discussion on the relevance of Viennese modernism to today's art industries;