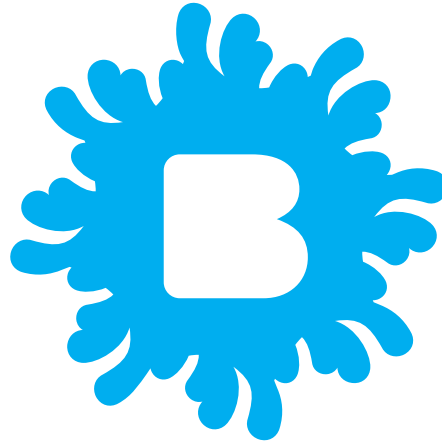


Press Release



May 2011

Installation of Nineteenth-Century Modern Objects and Furniture on view at Brooklyn Museum

September 2, 2011, through April 1, 2012

Featuring more than forty items from the Brooklyn Museum's collection of American and European decorative arts, ***19th-Century Modern*** will focus on the emergence of Modernism, an aesthetic based in part on the machine as a source of artistic inspiration. The installation will include objects from the early nineteenth century to the twentieth century to demonstrate the theme.

Although this new machine aesthetic began in the early nineteenth century, it wasn't until the last quarter of the century that the trend towards Modernist design accelerated. In addition to differences in the appearance of objects, there were important modifications in how objects were produced and marketed. The works in the installation illustrate the development of the modern industrial world and the emergence of a taste for abstraction. Designers and consumers began to appreciate simple decoration based either on geometry or organic curves. Naturalistic depictions of nature continued to characterize conservative design and surface decoration, but a taste for more abstract design slowly emerged. This can be seen in the furniture, architecture, and object designs of Frank Lloyd Wright in the United States, Charles Rennie Macintosh in Great Britain, and Josef Hoffmann in Austria, as well as in the cubist paintings of Picasso and his circle in France.

Among the items on view will be furniture by John Henry Belter, Duncan Phyfe, the Thonet Brothers, Samuel Gragg, Bradley & Hubbard, and George Hunzinger; silver objects by Tiffany & Company, Gorham Manufacturing, Elsa Tennhardt, and Napier; English earthenware; and a five-piece clock garniture manufactured in France by Guilmet.

The installation *19th-Century Modern* is organized by Barry H. Harwood, Curator, Decorative Arts, Brooklyn Museum.

Brooklyn Museum

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GENERAL INFORMATION**Admission:**

Contribution \$10; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$6. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; first Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B41, B69, B48.

On-site parking available.