

THE PRE-RAPHAELITE BROTHERHOOD (PRB)

LONDON, middle of XIX century

**Birth of the brotherhood:
historical and cultural context**

Historical Context (1848-1910)

Victorian Age (1837-1901) and Edwardian Age (1901-1910)

morality

living conditions



ENGLISH ACADEMIC ART BEFORE THE PRB



Joshua Reynolds, *Lady Elizabeth Russell*, 1761



Angelica Kauffmann, *Mrs Morgan and her daughter*, 1771

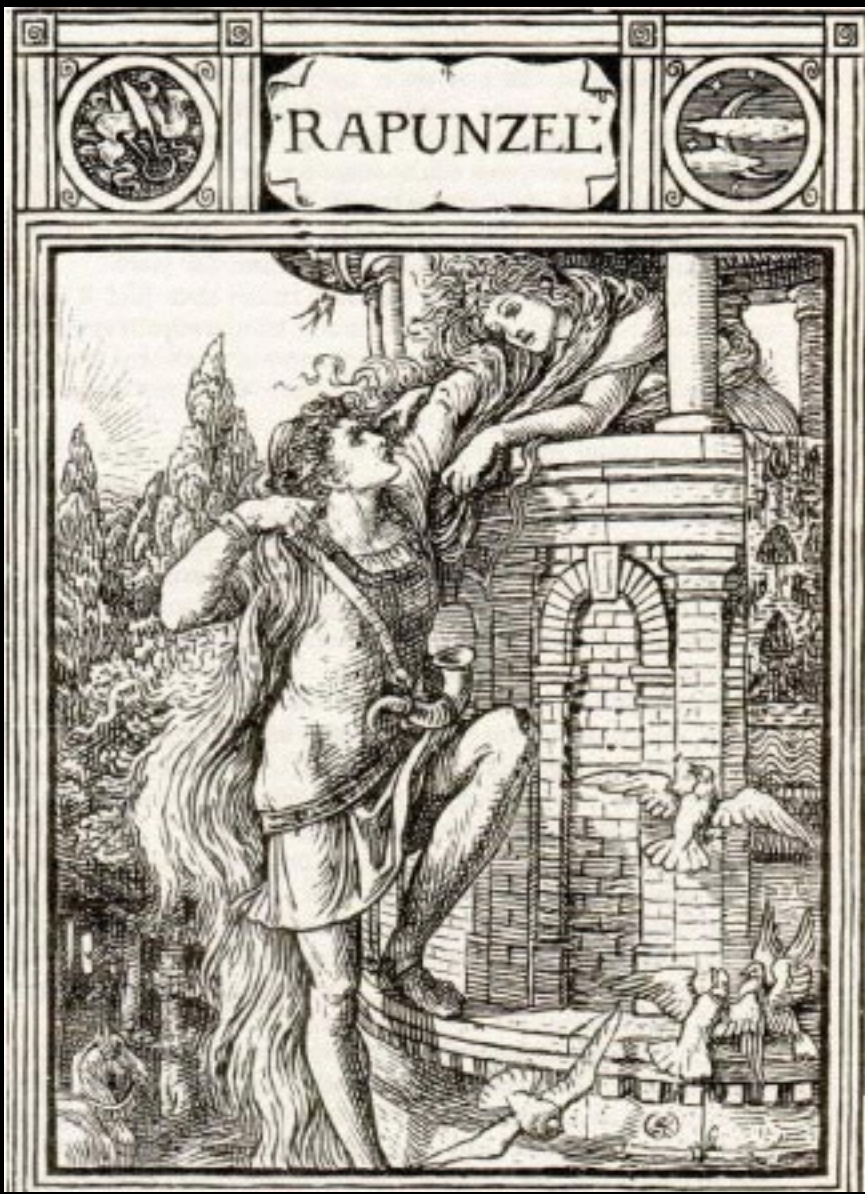


J.M.W. Turner, *The fall of the Chartage Empire*, 1817



J.M.W. Turner, *Snow storm: Hannibal and his army crossing the Alps*, 1812

MIDDLE AGES and ENGRAVINGS



Walter Crane, *Rapunzel*
Illustration, half of the XIX cent.



York
Cathedral

PRE-RAPHAELITES THEORIES



John Ruskin



William Morris

John Ruskin



Texts that influences the
PRB:

1. *Modern painters*
(1843-60)
2. *The seven lamps of architecture* (1849)
3. *The stones of Venice*
(1853)

Texts about the PRB:



1. 2 letters published in
the *Times journal*
(1851 e 1854)

2. *Pre-raphaelitism*
(1851): a pamphlet



- ★ art is everything which is produced with creativity and which is beautiful and useful
- ★ art is not what Academy decides art is: opposition to the Royal Academy, celebration of manufacturing defects

William Morris



William
Morris,
*Queen
Guinevere*
1858



Edward Burne-Jones,
Chaucer asleep, 1864



Societies:

1. *Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co.*
then *Morris & Co.*
(1861)
2. *Arts & Crafts Exhibition Society*
(1888)



Texts:

1. *The Decorative Arts. Their relation to modern life and progress*
(Trades' Guild of Learning, 1877)
2. *News from Nowhere*
(London, 1891)



William Morris, *Strawberry Thief*, 1888

...a successful idea:
130 A&C created in England between 1895 and
1905



Art Nouveau -> Henry Van de Velde, *Desk*, 1899

**History of the brotherhood:
its birth, its evolution**

1848 - 1910: the movement

(1848-1853: life of the brotherhood)

3 PHASES

1st phase: 1848-1854 _ leader: Millais _
members: Millais, Rossetti, Hunt

2nd phase: 1854-1877 _ leader: Rossetti _
members: Rossetti, Morris, Burne-Jones

3rd phase: 1877-1910 _ leader: Burne-Jones _
members: Burne-Jones, Leighton, Alma-Tadema

PRB EVOLUTION:

1st phase: naturalism and interest for details (Millais)

2nd phase: symbolism (Rossetti)

3rd phase: aestheticism (Burne-Jones) -> double legacy

THE FIRST EXHIBITION

- **FOUNDATION:** London, Millais' home, 1848
(seven original members of the brotherhood)
- **BECOMING FAMOUS:** Royal Academy's annual exhibition
(1849)

John Everett Millais, *Isabella*, 1849





William Holman Hunt, *Rienzi*, 1849



Dante Gabriel
Rossetti, *Ecce Ancilla
Domini*, 1849

Dante Gabriel Rossetti,
*The Girlhood of Mary
Virgin*, 1848-49

THE THEMES OF THE 1st PERIOD



*beauty, love and death:
english and italian literature*



*the fallen woman:
contemporary age*



*purity and morality:
religion and middle ages*

the legacy of the PRB

Edward Burne-Jones, *The wheel of Fortune*,
1875-83

Edward Burne-Jones,
The doom fulfilled,
1875-77



Double legacy... fantasy illustrations





Ted Nasmith, *Lady Galadriel*
(*Lord of the Rings*),
1980s



Walt Disney Company, *Sleeping Beauty*,
1950





Tom Bagshaw, *Evil Intent*, 2012



Walt Disney Co., *Maleficent*,
2014

THE GROSVENOR GALLERY

E. Burne-Jones, F. Leighton and L. Alma Tadema



THE GROSVENOR GALLERY, NEW SOUTH STREET—THE ENTRANCE





Frederic Leighton, *Elijah in the wilderness*, 1878

L. Alma-Tadema, *A coign of vantage*, 1895



Edward Burne-Jones, *The wheel of Fortune*, 1875-83



THE BIRTH OF THE ART NOUVEAU CURRENT

- a European movement
- the use of curve lines
- based on socialism
- Freud's influence



Double legacy... art nouveau and Oscar Wilde



For Aubrey: for the only artist who, beside myself, knows what the dance of the seven veils is, and can see that invisible dance
Oscar Wilde's dedication to
Aubrey Beardsley

I'm afraid that they [the illustrations] will reduce the text to the role of illustrating
Aubrey's illustrations
Oscar Wilde after the publication of the english edition of the tragedy

A. Beardsley, *I have kissed your mouth or The Climax*, 1893





A. Beardsley, *The peacock skirt*,
1893



A. Beardsley, *The dancer's reward*, 1893

THE DREAM and THE NIGHTMARE

