



SUBLIME SYMMETRY

The Mathematics behind De Morgan's Ceramic Designs

A Temporary exhibition specifically designed to teach KS2 mathematics through ceramic design.

Requires approx. 9m³ display case space over 13m shelf space and 28m wall space

£5,000 donation to the De Morgan Foundation for loan, plus borrower pays all other associated costs

Includes family activity, teacher pack for KS2 and an illustrated catalogue

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Sublime Symmetry, curated by Sarah Hardy, Curator of the De Morgan Foundation, is an exhibition which investigates the notable Victorian ceramicist, William De Morgan's, use of mathematical principles in his beautiful ceramic designs. In its first year, it attracted over 52,000 visitors and 2,000 school pupils. A video introduction to the exhibition which gives an overview of the concept and some key pieces can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MXaX7o1kCU>

William De Morgan (1839 - 1917) was undoubtedly the most intriguing and inventive ceramic designer of the late Victorian period. His conjuring of fantastical beasts to wrap themselves around the contours of ceramic hollowware and his manipulation of fanciful flora and fauna to meander across tile panels fascinated his contemporaries and still captivates today.

Over his career William De Morgan revolutionised the field of ceramic design with his reinvention of lustreware, dedication to studying and perfecting Middle Eastern designs, invention and use of his own kilns and his wonderful patterns.

Sublime Symmetry presents – through a rigorous examination of the mathematical devices used in his designs and original research – De Morgan as a natural mathematician and talented draughtsman.

Presenting De Morgan's design process in this innovative exhibition has drawn interest from mathematicians and art historians alike. In order to celebrate this success, a symposium was held in London on the centenary of De Morgan's death. Extensive notes can be downloaded here: http://www.demorgan.org.uk/sites/default/files/final_notes.pdf

The exhibition is organised thematically, around key principles of geometry taught at KS2 and is a huge draw to family and school visitors. The education pack can be viewed here: http://www.demorgan.org.uk/sites/default/files/education_pack_guildhall.pdf

www.demorgan.org.uk



THE
DE MORGAN
FOUNDATION



*Above: Guildhall Art Gallery, London
Below: Cannon Hall, Barnsley*





THE DE MORGAN FOUNDATION

The De Morgan Foundation owns an unparalleled collection of ceramics and oil paintings by William and Evelyn De Morgan, the husband and wife duo who were key proponents of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the late 19th and early 20th Century.



THE EXHIBITION PACKAGE INCLUDES

- The loan of 76 ceramic objects and 6 items of archival material including drawings by William De Morgan's father, the celebrated mathematician Augustus De Morgan, and William De Morgan's unpublished biography written by Lord Leighton's celebrated biographer, Mrs Russell Barrington.
- Hard copies of the exhibition catalogue, highly acclaimed in a review written featured in the Pre-Raphaelite Society Journal
- Digital education pack which introduces the mathematical devices in De Morgan's work to KS2 school children
- Hard copies of the family 'trumps' card game
- Children's sliding tile puzzle
- A press release and selection of images cleared for marketing and publicity use
- Text panel and object label text
- Curation and project management by the De Morgan Foundation
- A curator talk for visitors

