Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh

What Did Margaret Create?

Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh was a Scottish artist who made magical, dream-like art. She was an artist of whimsy, pattern & dreams.

- Beautiful **paintings** with flowing shapes and mysterious faces.
- Panels and murals using metal, fabric, and paint.
- Delicate gesso reliefs (a kind of raised decoration on panels).
- Art for buildings and **interior designs**, often working with her husband, architect **Charles Rennie Mackintosh**.

🧟 Childhood

- Born in **Tipton**, **England** in 1864.
- Moved to Glasgow, Scotland, when she was a child.
- Her father worked as a mining engineer, and the family valued education and creativity.
- Margaret and her younger sister Frances were very close and often made art together.
- She loved fairy tales and legends, which influenced her later artwork.
- She showed artistic talent from a young age, often sketching imaginative scenes.
- Her early years were filled with books, storytelling, and the Scottish countryside.
- She had a quiet and thoughtful personality, often drawn to dreams and symbolism.

Education

- Margaret went to the Glasgow School of Art in the 1890s.
- She studied design and decorative arts, like metalwork and textiles.
- She formed a strong artistic partnership with her sister Frances during their studies.
- She and Frances were known as "The Macdonald Sisters" at the art school.

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- Together they formed a group with two other students called **"The Four."** The group they formed included Margarets' husband Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and Frances' husband Herbert MacNair
- Margaret was especially skilled in working with gesso panels for interior decoration.
- Her teachers encouraged her creative independence and unusual style.

🍀 Career

- Became one of the leading artists in the **Glasgow Style**, part of the Art Nouveau movement.
- Worked with her sister and later with her husband, **Charles Rennie Mackintosh**.
- Together, Margaret and Charles designed **interiors for buildings**, including tea rooms and homes.
- Created famous gesso panels like "The May Queen" and "The Opera of the Winds".
- Exhibited her work in major art exhibitions across Europe, including Vienna.
- Her panels decorated many of Charles's architectural spaces, especially **Miss Cranston's tea rooms**.
- She influenced modern design with her imaginative female figures and symbolic forms.
- Despite retiring early due to illness, her work remained influential and admired.

○ Quotes from Margaret

"Art is the flower — life is the green leaf." "A design must come from within."

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'Homage to the Seven Princesses' – detail #4 of a gesso panel from a series commissioned for the Waerndorfer villa in Vienna





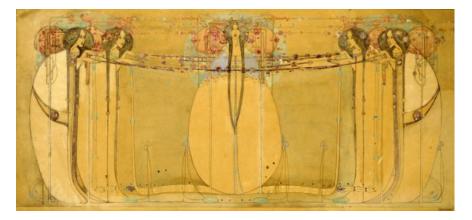
'Spring' part of a series of 4 created for the home of H. H. Blackie

The Mysterious Garden – a watercolour

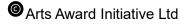


'O ye, all ye that walk in Willow Wood'

'The May Queen' - a three-panel oil painting on gesso







🐑 Art