

Celtic and Celtic Revival Art in Scotland

This module will examine 'Celtic' art in Scotland from the Iron Age to the present day. It will consider how craftspeople in Pictland and neighbouring early medieval cultures expressed themselves artistically, drawing on influences from earlier art and the art of the wider world, while at the same time developing their own innovations. We will look at the great carved stones of Scotland and Ireland, as well as glorious manuscripts such as the Book of Kells. The module will then look at how many features of early medieval art survived into the early modern period. Although some of this legacy eventually began to fade away, it was reborn in the 19th century when the 'Celtic Revival' brought a new interest in the art and culture of earlier times.

Learning Outcomes

Students will

- Demonstrate a broad and integrated knowledge and understanding of the diagnostic features of Celtic and Celtic Revival Art
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of fundamental design principles and analyse their use in different media
- Explain the functions of art and design within the cultures under consideration that is informed by research
- Apply their understanding of the material to a range of different potential areas e.g. museums, heritage, design

Weekly Summary

1. Introduction to the module, who were the Celts, what do we mean by Celtic?
2. Ancient Celtic art: a look at the art of ancient Celtic-speaking peoples on the continent and British Isles.
3. Metalwork: examination of how old and new ideas came together in the metalwork of the early medieval period.
4. Manuscript art: an exploration of the manuscript art of early Medieval Scotland, including the Book of Kells and the Book of Deer.
5. Sculpture: looking at the monuments of the Picts, Britons and Gaels, and the non-Celtic speakers who influenced and were influenced by them.
6. Pictish symbols: looking at symbols, their development, their placement and consider some theories.
7. Artists and artisans in medieval literature: the evidence of texts depicted in the literature of the medieval Celtic speaking peoples.
8. Celtic art and the Norse world: interactions between the insular art of early medieval Scotland and how it interacted with the art of the Vikings and Norse settlers.
9. Later medieval Celtic Scotland: considering the art of Gaelic Scotland in the later middle ages.
10. Reformation, union and Jacobitism: the developments in the art of Gaelic Scotland throughout the tumultuous centuries of the early modern period.
11. Romanticism and the Celtic revival: an exploration into the ways 'Celtic Art' was engaged with and developed.
12. Celtic art today: considering the place of Celtic art today, and its wide ranging uses.

Assessments

Essay 1: 40% of overall mark, 1500 words

Essay 2: 60% of overall mark, 2500 words

Queries

Contact the module leader for more information, Oisin Plumb: oisin.plumb@uhi.ac.uk.

Apply

Apply via the website here.