

Press Information

150th anniversary of Henry van de Velde's birth

Henry van de Velde – facts & figures

Who was Henry van de Velde?

Henry van de Velde (born on 3 April 1863 in Antwerp; died on 25 October 1957 in Zurich) produced an oeuvre that encompassed architecture, paintings and the design of everyday objects. Numerous commissions brought van de Velde to Germany, where he left behind an impressive legacy.

Which architectural works did Henry van de Velde create in Germany?

Examples include: The Nietzsche Archive in Weimar (1902/03), Villa Esche in Chemnitz (1902/1911), The School of Art/School of Arts and Crafts in Weimar (1904-1911), Hohe Pappeln House in Weimar (1907/08), Villa Quisisana in Chemnitz (around 1908), Ernst Abbe monument in Jena (1909-11), Villa Koerner in Chemnitz (1913/14), Haus Schulenburg in Gera (1913/14)

Five fascinating facts about Henry van de Velde*:

1. "A line is a force" was Henry van de Velde's guiding artistic principle. As a result, he worked primarily with lines, initially sweeping and later straighter.
2. He was very much an all-round designer, painter and architect, whose repertoire ranged from art nouveau silver cutlery to streamlined letter steamers.
3. Henry van de Velde exhibited works with the then unknown Vincent van Gogh and was among the first admirers of his paintings.
4. In Weimar, Henry van de Velde established the Grand Ducal School of Arts and Crafts. The school was closed in 1915 but became the Bauhaus School in Weimar from 1920 under the directorship of Walter Gropius.
5. When the ceramics industry hit troubled times, Henry van de Velde was transferred to the Thuringian village of Bürgel at the request of the Duchy of Saxe-Weimar. His input gave the local workshops a new lease of life.

*Sources: www.vandevelde-route.de, www.henryvandevelde.de, www.klassik-stiftung.de, www.spiegel.de