

Art: Tuesday 12th May

Read about René Lalique.

- Who was he?
- What did he do?
- Why is he famous?

René Lalique

(1860–1945). During the early 20th century, René Lalique created designs in jewellery and glass that contributed significantly to the art nouveau movement. Used for luxury articles, Lalique glass was the height of fashion during the 1920s.

Lalique was born on April 6, 1860, in Ay, France, near Reims. Trained at the School of Decorative Arts in Paris and in London, he founded his own firm in Paris in 1885. His art nouveau brooches and combs attracted great attention at the Paris international exhibition in 1900, after which he became a celebrated jeweller. Among his patrons was the renowned French actress Sarah Bernhardt, for whom he designed some of his finest creations. He was also a technical innovator, successfully introducing new materials, such as horn, by emphasizing their previously neglected visual and tactile qualities. His favourite motifs were women and animals, especially snakes or insects. Reacting against machine production of more manneristic jewellery featuring costly gems, he created jewellery of elegant designs with relatively few precious stones.

Lalique's interest in rock crystal and architectural glass led him to artistic experiments in those media. By 1910 he had established a glass factory in Combs-la-Ville, France, and in 1918 he acquired a larger factory in Wingen-sur-Moder. An order for perfume bottles led him to develop that style of molded glass with which he is generally associated: it is characterized by iced surfaces, elaborate or partially realistic patterns in relief, and occasionally applied or inlaid colour. His new designs shown at the Paris Exhibition in 1925 greatly enhanced his reputation. Lalique was a leading advocate of the use of glass in architecture, and much of his work was in the form of lighting equipment and other details of interior decoration. He died in Paris on May 5, 1945. Under the direction of his son Marc, however, Lalique's factory continued to produce glass in his own personal style.

Create a fact file about René Lalique

You can use just the facts that are in the pack or if you are able to, you can find out any other interesting facts.



Look at some examples of his work and recreate your own version.

