

Ford Madox Brown

Ford Madox Brown, (born April 16, 1821, Calais, France—died October 6, 1893, London, England), English painter whose work is associated with that of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, although he was never a member.

Brown studied art from 1837 to 1839 in Bruges and Antwerp, Belgium. His early work is characterized by sombre colour and dramatic feeling suited to the Byronic subjects that he painted in Paris during 1840–43, such as *Manfred on the Jungfrau* (c. 1840). Already concerned with the accurate representation of natural phenomena, he drew from corpses in University College Hospital in London when painting his *Prisoner of Chillon* (1843). During a visit to Italy in 1845, he met Peter von Cornelius, a member of the former Lukasbund, or Nazarenes. This meeting undoubtedly influenced both Brown's palette and his style. His interest in brilliant, clear colour and neo-medievalism first appears in *Wycliffe Reading His Translation of the Scriptures to John of Gaunt* (1847). In 1848 Brown briefly accepted Dante Gabriel Rossetti as a pupil, and in 1850 Brown contributed to the Pre-Raphaelites' magazine, *Germ*. Like William Holman Hunt, Brown painted in the open air to obtain naturalistic accuracy.

His most famous picture, *Work* (1852–63), which can be seen as a Victorian social document, was first exhibited at a retrospective exhibition held in London (1865), for which he wrote the catalogue. He also worked as a book illustrator with William Morris; produced stained glass, at, among other sites, St. Oswald's, Durham (1864–65); and between 1879 and 1893 completed a series of 12 murals for the Manchester town hall, depicting scenes from the city's history.

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